



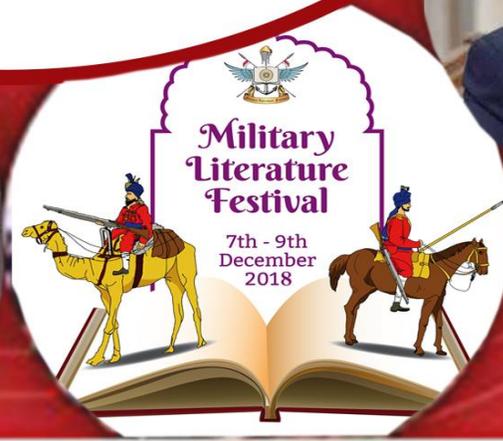
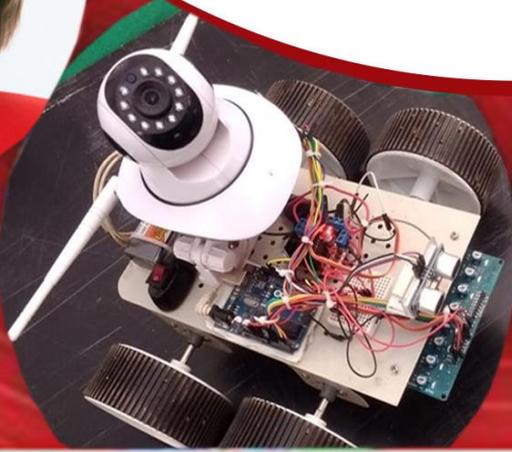
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# நடப்பு நிகழ்வுகள் (CURRENT AFFAIRS)

## DECEMBER - 2018

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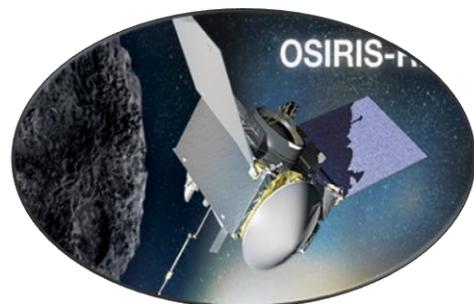
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## NATIONAL NEWS

### December 1

1. What is the objective of Saubhagya – ‘Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana’?

**Answer :** Provide access to electricity to all the remaining households in the country

**Explanation :**

- Eight more States have achieved 100% saturation in household electrification under Saubhagya namely **Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Bihar, J&K, Mizoram, Sikkim, Telangana and West Bengal. Saubhagya – ‘Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana’** was launched in September, 2017 with the objective to **provide electricity access** to all the remaining households in the country.
- Achievement of 100% household electrification in the country would be a major milestone in the direction to achieve 24×7 power for all. The Government is committed to ensure **24×7 access** to electricity for all by **31st March 2019**.

2. Which entity organized the Development Dialogue on “Health Systems for A New India: Building Blocks”, on 30th November 2018?

**Answer :** NITI Aayog

**Explanation :**

- **NITI Aayog** to begin a series of **Development Dialogues to engage experts**, thought leaders and government stakeholders across key avenues of long-term social and economic development.
- **The first event shall be a conference on “Health Systems for A New India: Building Blocks” on November 30.** The conference will feature senior **government functionaries, and eminent national and international experts in the healthcare space.**

3. What is DAIC?

**Answer :** Dr Ambedkar International Centre

**Explanation :**

- **Dr Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), 15 Janpath, New Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi,** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to facilitate and **enhance research activities and policy formulation** aimed at **Socio-economic Transformation and Sustainable Development.**
- The two organizations resolved to cooperate within the scope of their mandates and sphere of competences to work for these issues.

4. The air force units of India & which country are scheduled to participate in exercise ‘Cope India 2019 (CI19)’?

**Answer :** United States

**Explanation :**

- **The air force units of the US and India** are going to participate in Exercise **“COPE INDIA 2019” (CI19),** a bilateral **flying training programme.** This Bilateral training

programme will take place in **West Bengal: Air Force Station Kalaikunda and Air Force Station Arjan Singh in Burdwan.**

- **Exercise CI19** is a long-standing bilateral **US Pacific Air Forces (PACAF)**-sponsored Field Training Exercise (FTX), conducted with the IAF, focused on enhancing US-Indian mutual cooperation and building on existing **capabilities, aircrew tactics and force employment.**

4. Where will be the ‘South Asia Regional Youth Peace Conference’ held at?

**Answer :** Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, Delhi.

**Explanation :**

- Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti functioning under Ministry of Culture, Government of India will be organising a 3 day ‘**South Asia Regional Youth Peace Conference**’ in partnership with **UNESCO- MGIEP and Standing Together to Enable Peace** . Its objective was to eliminate stereotypes, prejudices across all borders to understand micro-macro aspect of issues, identify common challenges and develop plan of action and to build network of youth leaders.
- The conference will be held at **Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, Delhi, India.** The conference is being organized to mark the beginning of celebration of **150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.**

5. Name the festival organized by Manipur Tourism Department?

**Answer :** “Sangai Festival”

**Explanation :**

- Every year Manipur Tourism Department organizes annual cultural festival known as “**Sangai Festival**” which was previously known as “**Tourism Festival**” but in 2010 it was renamed after the State Animal of Manipur **Sangai Deer.**

## December 2

1. Which state celebrates the 19th Hornbill Festival 2018 from 1st to 10th December 2018?

**Answer :** Nagaland

**Explanation :**

- **Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh** will inaugurate the **19th Hornbill Festival at Kisama village near state capital Kohima in Nagaland.** The fest aims to display the rich traditions and the vibrant culture of Nagaland through colourful performances, crafts, sports, food fairs, games and ceremonies.
- Nagaland Governor PB Acharya will be the chief host, while US Ambassador to India Kenneth I Juster has been invited as the guest of honour.

2. Who are signed a pact to foster academic exchange and research collaboration?

**Answer :** IIT Kharagpur and the University of Auckland

**Explanation :**

- **IIT Kharagpur and the University of Auckland** signed a pact to **foster academic exchange and research collaboration.**
- As per the Memorandum of Understanding – **the first strategic partnership of University of Auckland with a higher education in India** – the two educational

establishments would explore opportunities for research in **healthcare technologies, new materials, cyber security and artificial Intelligence.**

3. Who is the President of South Africa?

**Answer :** Cyril Ramaphosa

**Explanation :**

- **South African President Cyril Ramaphosa** will be the **Chief Guest at the 2019 Republic Day** celebration in **New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs** said. The announcement comes more than a month after US President Donald Trump declined India's invite to be the chief guest at Republic Day.
- **Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar** said, "President Ramaphosa accepted India's invitation to be the Chief Guest at Republic Day during 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi."

4. In which place Asia Pacific Summit-2018 was held on 1st and 2nd December 2018?

**Answer :** Kathmandu, Nepal

**Explanation :**

- **The Asia Pacific Summit-2018 began in Kathmandu**, the capital of Nepal. The theme of two-day Summit is "**Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, and Universal Values**".
- They will discuss various global issues, including peace, development, good governance and role of parliamentarians, climate change and role of media.

5. India's first owl fest, held in \_\_\_\_\_?

**Answer :** Pune

**Explanation :**

- **The Indian Owl Festival**, the country's first owl fest, will be held at **Pingori village in Purandar taluka of Pune** from November 29. The two-day festival, organised by **Ela Foundation**, an NGO working towards nature education and conservation.
- It is a first-of-its-kind festival in the country that is being organised with the intention of creating awareness about owl as a bird and debunking numerous superstitions associated with it.

6. What is UNICEF?

**Answer :** United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

**Explanation :**

- a report by **UNICEF** (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund ) which was released ahead of **AIDS day** estimated that **1,20,000** children and adolescents aged 0-19 were living with **HIV** in **India** in 2017, the highest number in **South Asia**.
- The report titled '**Children, HIV and AIDS: The World in 2030**' warned that around **80 adolescents** will be dying of **AIDS** every day globally by **2030** if progress in preventing transmission is not accelerated.

7. Which country is facing a major malnutrition crisis as it holds almost a third of the world 'stunted children, according to a Global Nutrition Report 2018

**Answer :** India

**Explanation :**

- **India** is facing a major malnutrition crisis as it holds almost a **third** of the world 'stunted children, according to a **Global Nutrition Report 2018**. The report classifies **India** as experiencing two forms of **malnutrition anemia and stunting**. Stunting or low height for age is caused by long term insufficient nutrient-intake and frequent infections.

### December 3

1. When will the India host the G20 summit?

**Answer : 2022**

**Explanation :**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** confirmed that **India will host the G20 summit in the year 2022** when the country will complete **75 years of independence**. The Prime Minister made the announcement at the concluding session on the third day of the **G20 Summit in Argentina**.
- Originally slated to host the summit in the year **2021**, the Prime Minister expressed his gratitude towards **Italy** for accepting their request to host the **G20 in 2022**.

2. Who is External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India?

**Answer : Sushma Swaraj**

**Explanation :**

- **External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj** and the **Foreign Minister of Mozambique Jose Condungua Antonio Pacheco** co-chaired the **4th India-Mozambique Joint Commission meeting in New Delhi**, where the two leaders held discussion on co-operation in commercial, investment, defence, development and social sectors.
- The African nation's Foreign Minister is on an official visit to India. He is slated to address the **Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)**, following which he shall be attending the **India-Mozambique Business Forum at The Oberoi in New Delhi**.

3. Name of the software has been developed by Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS)?

**Answer : 'eDrishti'**

**Explanation :**

- **Indian Railways unveiled 'eDrishti' software** that will help Union Railway Minister to keep track of punctuality of trains as well as freight and passenger earnings and much more from anywhere in the country. The software has been developed by **Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS)** to help Minister keep track of all information related to Indian Railways, one of the world's largest rail networks.
- It will also provide the live status of reserved and unreserved passengers travelling on trains besides providing the exact location of trains at any point of time.

3. Where will The India Health Summit take place?

**Answer : Le Meridien (New Delhi)**

**Explanation :**

- **The India Health Summit**, organized by the **Confederation Of Indian Industry** will take place at the Le Meridien in New Delhi. This event will provide a platform which will be a global conglomeration of innovators/technocrats/intellectuals and healthcare

business leaders to meet, deliberate, discuss cutting-edge innovations which will help the country health care system.

4. Which entity launched a new mass media campaign named “Heart Attack Rewind,” for the elimination of industrially produced trans-fat in the food supply, on 30th November 2018?

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

**Explanation :**

- **The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** launched a media campaign calling for the elimination of industrially produced trans-fat in the food supply.
- Named “**Heart Attack Rewind**”, the 30-second public service announcement the first mass media campaign of its kind will support FSSAI’s global target of **eliminating trans-fat in India by 2022**, a year ahead of the global target by the **World Health Organization**.

5. Who inaugurated the 13th edition of CII Agro Tech India-2018 in Chandigarh?

**Answer :** Shri Ram Nath Kovind (The President of India)

**Explanation :**

- The President of India, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, inaugurated the **13th edition of CII Agro Tech India-2018 in Chandigarh**. He stated that Indian agriculture needs a renewal of its marriage with contemporary technology; protection against climate change, price fluctuations and demand shocks; and sustained investment by and partnership with business.

6. Theme of “Sangai Festival” in Manipur?

**Answer :** “DESTINATION MANIPUR”

**Explanation :**

- Every year Manipur Tourism Department organizes annual cultural festival known as “**Sangai Festival**” which was previously known as “**Tourism Festival**” since 2010 this has been renamed as the Sangai Festival to stage the uniqueness of the shy and gentle brow-antlered deer popularly known as the **Sangai Deer**, which is the state animal of Manipur.
- Theme: “**DESTINATION MANIPUR**”. The Princess of Thailand **Maha Chakri Sirindhorn** attended the 10-day festival on maiden visit to Manipur.

#### December 4

1. At Where did Global Agriculture and Food Summit 2018 held?

**Answer :** Ranchi, Jharkhand

**Explanation :**

- Union Agriculture Minister **Radha Mohan Singh** inaugurated **Global Agriculture and Food Summit 2018 in Ranchi, Jharkhand**. Seven countries, including China, Israel and Malaysia are participating in the two-day Summit. The aim of the Summit is to promote Jharkhand as a key player to attract investment in the agriculture sector.
- The summit will focus on organic farming in horticulture, dairy, poultry and fisheries, and food processing.

2. Theatre level operational readiness exercise ‘Tropex’ will begin from \_\_\_\_\_?

**Answer :** January and culminate in March, next year

**Explanation :**

- **The Indian Navy** will conduct a large-scale coastal defence exercise next month to test the robustness of the entire coastal security apparatus. The ‘**Exercise sea vigil**’ will involve all stake holders across mainland and Island territories, and will see the participation of all operational ships, submarines and aircraft as well as units of Indian coast guards, Indian Army and the Indian Air Force, Indian Navy Chief **Admiral Sunil Lanba** said.
- Theatre level operational readiness exercise ‘**Tropex**’ will begin from January and culminate in March, next year.

3. Which is the birth place of Goddess Sita?

**Answer :** Janakpur

**Explanation :**

- **The Uttar Pradesh and Nepal governments** will soon sign a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to declare **Ayodhya and Janakpur as twin cities**. Adityanath also agreed to visit the Himalayan nation on December 12 to participate in the festivities of **Lord Ram and Sita** that are held every year.
- **Janakpur is the birth place of Goddess Sita**. He also informed the Nepalese delegation that work on the four-landing of the **Ram-Janki road** has begun.

4. Which government launched a common mobility card with a tagline of ‘One Delhi One Ride’?

**Answer :** The Delhi government

**Explanation :**

- **The Delhi government** launched a **common mobility card** with a tagline of ‘**One Delhi One Ride**’ which would enable city commuters to access Metro and bus services with a single card at a 10 per cent discount.

5. Who becomes first Indian to scale Sahayadri mountain range?

**Answer :** Tuhin Satarkar

**Explanation :**

- Bouldering sensation **Tuhin Satarkar** pushed his limits as he scaled three routes in the treacherous **Sahayadri mountain range** in 12 days, from November 16 to 28, to become the **first Indian** to ever achieve the feat. **The Sahayadri range** has one of the most daunting mountains **in Maharashtra**.

6. Who presented Standards to 118 Helicopter Unit?

**Answer :** Shri Ram Nath Kovind (The President of India)

**Explanation :**

- The President of India, Shri **Ram Nath Kovind**, presented **Standards to 118 Helicopter Unit** and Colours to Air Defence College in **Guwahati, Assam**. India is seen as an eminent power, expected **to play a prominent role in shaping the global paradigm** with regards to international security, trade and commerce, and environmental protection.

7. What is the theme of the 2nd National Conference of Heads of Investigating Agencies in New

Delhi?

**Answer :** “Capacity Building of Police Investigators in the Era of New Age Crimes”

**Explanation :**

- Bureau of Police Research and Development will organize the **2nd National Conference of Heads of Investigating Agencies in New Delhi**. The two-day Conference will deliberate on various legal aspects, procedures and use of technology in investigation **to improve its quality and secure effective prosecution**.
- The theme of the conference is “**Capacity Building of Police Investigators in the Era of New Age Crimes**”.

## December 5

1. The 80th Session of the three-day Policy Commission of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) held in which city?

**Answer :** Mumbai

**Explanation :**

- The **80th** Session of the three-day **Policy Commission of the World Customs Organisation (WCO)** will begin **in Mumbai**. Issues like trade facilitation and controlling illicit financial flow will be discussed during the three-day event, the opening session of which will be addressed by Union Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley**.

2. What is the objective of the five-year agreement with the e-Governance Academy of Estonia?

**Answer :** To work together to develop and expand scientific collaboration

**Explanation :**

- **The Nagaland government** has inked a MoU with **Estonian academy** to enlighten the state people on the **e-governance models prevailing in the world**. The main objective of the **five-year agreement** with the e-Governance Academy of Estonia is to work together **to develop and expand scientific collaboration** on setting up e-Governance Academy in Nagaland.
- The day long e-Naga Summit was held on the theme, “**Building IT infrastructure to make the state of Nagaland the next IT hub of South-East Asia**”.

3. Which state allows citizens to inspect government records under RTI Act for two hours?

**Answer :** Maharashtra

**Explanation :**

- **Residents of Maharashtra** can now inspect government records in district-level offices and local bodies under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act for two hours**.
- The move is aimed at increasing transparency and to cut down the number of RTI applications and appeals in the government offices.

4. What is the name of the world’s largest healthcare scheme?

**Answer :** “Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)”

**Explanation :**

- **Jammu and Kashmir** Governor Satya Pal Malik has launched the ambitious “**Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**” scheme which would benefit over 31 lakh residents in the state.
- The AB-PMJAY is the **world’s largest healthcare scheme** which aims at providing portable coverage of **Rs 5 lakh per entitled family annually**.

5. Which rule has been added Performing Animals Rules 2001, which will prohibit the use of animals in circuses?

**Answer :** 13A

**Explanation :**

- **The Centre** has proposed prohibition of the use of animals for performances, exhibition at any circus or mobile entertainment facilities, a move hailed by animal rights activists as “progressive and laudable”.
- In the **Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001, under rule 13**, the following shall be added 13A– prohibition on exhibiting and training of animals for specified performances. No animals shall be used for any performances or exhibition at any circus or mobile entertainment facility.

6. Where did the first bilateral air exercise SHINYUU Maitri-18 between Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) and Indian Air Force (IAF) has began?

**Answer :** Agra

**Explanation :**

- **The Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF)** is in India for a bilateral air exercise - **SHINYUU Maitri 18** with **Indian Air Force** from 03-07 December at **A F Station Agra**. The theme of the exercise is ‘**Joint Mobility/Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) on Transport aircraft**’.
- The focus of the exercise is set for the IAF and JASDF crews to undertake Joint Mobility/ HADR operations. Display of heavy loading/ off loading are also planned to be practiced during this exercise.

7. Who announced PEETHA initiative?

**Answer :** Naveen Patnaik

**Explanation :**

- With an aim at creating awareness about various schemes of the state government and improve transparency in distribution of individual and social benefits, chief minister **Naveen Patnaik announced PEETHA initiative**.
- The PEETHA initiative is part of the Ama Gaon... **Ama Bikash (AGAB) programme**, perceived to be the largest people-connect programme of the Naveen Patnaik government.

### December 6

1. ISRO successfully launched which satellite which is its heaviest and most advanced high throughput communication satellite from Spaceport in French Guiana?

**Answer :** GSAT-11

**Explanation :**

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully launched **its heaviest and most-advanced high throughput communication satellite, GSAT-11, from the Spaceport in French Guiana**.
- The launch vehicle, **Ariane 5 VA-246**, lifted off from **Kourou Launch Base** carrying **India’s GSAT-11 and South Korea’s GEO-KOMPSAT-2A satellites**.
- The **5854-kg satellite** will provide high data rate connectivity.

2. The first india ASEAN InnoTech Summit will be held in which city?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- **Union Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan**, called upon the scientific community **in India and ASEAN member states** to intensify collaborative research in science, technology and innovation.
- **The first India-ASEAN InnoTech Summit in New Delhi** is organised by **FICCI** in association with the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** and the **Ministry of External Affairs**.

3. The Centre has included Gangotri and Yamunotri in Uttarakhand, Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh and Parasnath in Jharkhand under a central scheme “PRASAD”. What does “P” stand for in PRASAD?

**Answer :** Pilgrimage

**Explanation :**

- **The Centre** has included **Gangotri and Yamunotri in Uttarakhand, Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh and Parasnath in Jharkhand** under a central scheme to develop pilgrimage and heritage destinations in the country.
- The number of sites under the **Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)** launched by the ministry in 2014-15 has now become 41 in 25 states.

4. International Gita Mahotsav 2018 to be held in which city?

**Answer :** Kurukshetra

**Explanation :**

- **Haryana’s prestigious International Gita Mahotsav-2018** will be organised from December 7 to 23 in **Kurukshetra**. Artists and artisans of national and international repute will participate in the International Crafts and Saras Mela, which will simultaneously be organised from December 7-23.
- **Mauritius would be the partner country and Gujarat would be the partner state** in the celebrations of the festival.

5. India Water Impact Summit 2018 held in which city?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- **Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Minister Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated **India Water Impact Summit 2018 in New Delhi**. The three days summit is jointly organized by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga** and the Centre for **Ganga River Basin Management and Studies**.

6. What is the weight of GSAT-11 satellite?

**Answer :** 5854kg

**Explanation :**

- India’s most-advanced high-throughput communication satellite **GSAT-11** was successfully launched from Spaceport in **French Guiana**. The satellite weighs **5854-kg GSAT-11** and is the **heaviest satellite** ever built by the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**. It has a mission **life of 15 years**.

**December 7**

1. Theme of annual Start-up India Venture Capital Summit in Goa is \_\_\_\_\_?

**Answer :** ‘Mobilizing Global Capital for Innovation in India’

**Explanation :**

- The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Government of Goa, is hosting the **annual Start-up India Venture Capital Summit in Goa**.
- The key objectives of the Summit will be to showcase the India opportunity, increase capital flow for Indian start-ups and further promote ease of doing business.
- The **theme** of the Summit is ‘**Mobilizing Global Capital for Innovation in India**’.

2. Which state launched a unique initiative “SMART”?

**Answer :** Maharashtra

**Explanation :**

- To transform rural Maharashtra, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has launched a unique initiative called “**SMART**”, which stands for State of Maharashtra’s Agribusiness and Rural Transformation.
- The project will entail an investment of 300 million US dollars of which World Bank would contribute 210 million US dollars.

3. What is the rank of India in the world in terms of emission of carbon dioxide, according to Global Carbon Project study?

**Answer :** Fourth

**Explanation :**

- **India is the fourth highest emitter of carbon dioxide in the world**, accounting for 7 per cent of global emissions in 2017, a study by the **Global Carbon Project** released recently.
- The **top** four emitters in 2017, which covered 58 per cent of global emissions, were **China** (27 per cent), the US (15 per cent), the European Union (10 per cent) and India (7 per cent), according to the projection by the **Global Carbon Project**.

4. Exercise “Clean Sea 2018’ was held at which place?

**Answer :** Port Blair

**Explanation :**

- **The Indian Coast Guard** has conducted the Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise titled ‘**Clean Sea – 2018’ at sea off Port Blair**.
- The preparedness of all agencies during the exercise was conducted under observation of Inspector **General Maneesh V Pathak**, Commander Coast Guard Region (Andaman and Nicobar Islands).

5. Which city’s court became the first in India to start e-payment facility?

**Answer :** Pune

**Explanation :**

- To bring transparency to cash transactions, the **Pune district court** administration is starting an **e-payment facility** in the Shivajinager district and sessions court. This is the **first time in India that** practising lawyers and litigants in various cases will be able to make payments online.

6. Which government launched “Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana’?

**Answer :** Delhi

**Explanation :**

- **The Delhi government** launched the ‘**Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana**’ which offers free travel packages on **five** religious circuits for senior citizens from the national capital. The scheme, approved by the Cabinet in July, was launched by Chief Minister **Arvind Kejriwal** at the Delhi Secretariat.

### **December 8**

1. What is the India’s position in terms of CO2 emitter in 2017, as per recent study by Global Carbon Project?

**Answer :** fourth

**Explanation :**

- **India** is the **fourth** highest emitter of carbon dioxide in the world, accounting for 7 percent of global emissions in 2017, according to a study by Global Carbon Project on 06th December 2018.
- The top 10 emitters were **China, the US, the EU, India, Russia, Japan, Germany, Iran, Saudi Arabia and South Korea.**

2. Where did the 19th All India Police (AIPDM) Shooting Competition-2018 held at?

**Answer :** Manesar, Gurugram (Haryana)

**Explanation :**

- Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju has inaugurated the **19th All India Police (AIPDM) Shooting Competition-2018** at Manesar, **Gurugram in Haryana.** The competition will continue till 11th of this month.

3. What is ‘Ideate For India’?

**Answer :** Joint collaboration between National e-governance Division and Intel India

**Explanation :**

- Minister for Electronics and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched **National Challenge – ‘Ideate for India – creative solutions using technology’** for school students in **New Delhi.** The challenge will help empower the youth to become the next generation of innovators and technology creators.
- **‘Ideate For India’** national challenge is a joint collaboration between **National e-governance Division and Intel India.**

4. What is GI?

**Answer :** Geographical Indications

**Explanation :**

- **Odisha’s Kandhamal Haldi** (turmeric), famous for its healing properties, is a few steps away from receiving GI tag as the Geographical Indications Journal has advertised its application seeking objections.
- ‘Kandhamal Haldi’ was accepted under sub-section (1) of **Section 13 of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.**

5. Who is the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iceland?

**Answer :** Gudlaugur Thor Thordarson

**Explanation :**

- **Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iceland, Gudlaugur Thor Thordarson**, arrived in India on an eight-day visit to the country. Thordarson is scheduled to address the **Iceland-India Business Seminar at The Oberoi hotel in New Delhi**.
- On December 8, the Icelandic Foreign Minister will meet External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** at the Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan and hold talks over bilateral issues.

6. The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the Agriculture Export Policy 2018 with an aim to double farmer's income by which year?

**Answer :** 2022

**Explanation :**

- The **Union Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved the **Agriculture Export Policy, 2018** with an aim to **double farmers' income by 2022**. Exports of agricultural products would play a pivotal role in achieving this goal.
- **The Agriculture Export Policy** has the vision to harness the export potential of Indian agriculture, through suitable policy instruments, to make India global power in agriculture and raise farmers' income.

7. What stand for ATIC?

**Answer :** Agricultural Technology Information Centre

**Explanation :**

- Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister laid the Foundation stone of **Pusa Kisan Haat** in Indian Council of Agricultural Research's (ICAR) Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) in **New Delhi**.

8. The 1st International Conference on Bears commenced in which city?

**Answer :** Agra, Uttar Pradesh

**Explanation :**

- To share knowledge on principles of welfare of bears and other wild animals in zoos, sanctuaries and rescue centres, a four day **1st International Conference on Bears** commenced **in Agra, Uttar Pradesh**. It concluded on December 6, 2018.

### **December 9**

1. Which state government has launched 'Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana' for senior citizens?

**Answer :** Delhi

**Explanation :**

- The Delhi government has launched the '**Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana**' which **offers free travel packages on five religious circuits** for senior citizens from the national capital.
- The scheme, approved by the Cabinet in July, was launched by Chief Minister **Arvind Kejriwal** at the Delhi Secretariat.

2. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has decided to observe which year as the International Year of Millets?

**Answer :** 2023

**Explanation :**

- **Food and Agriculture organisation**, FAO Council has approved **India's proposal** to observe an **International Year of Millets in 2023**. Millets consists of **Jowar, Bajra, Ragi and minor millets** together termed as nutri-cereals.
- In addition, the FAO Council has also approved India's membership to the Executive Board of the **United Nations World Food Program for 2020 and 2021**.

3. The three-day Military Literature Festival 2018 began in which city?

**Answer :** Chandigarh

**Explanation :**

- The three-day **Military Literature Festival (MLF) 2018**, kick-started in **Chandigarh**. The festival is a joint initiative of military historian and Punjab Chief Minister **Captain Amarinder Singh** and Punjab Governor **VP Singh Badnore**.

4. Where did 3-day annual India Water Impact Summit 2018 held at?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- To discuss, debate and develop model solutions for some of the biggest water related problems in the country, Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation **Shri Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated **3-day annual India Water Impact Summit 2018** in **New Delhi**. It concluded on December 7, 2018.

5. India has signed an agreement with which country to pay for crude oil it imports from the Persian Gulf?

**Answer :** Iran

**Explanation :**

- **India** has signed an **agreement with Iran to pay for crude oil it imports from the Persian Gulf nation in rupees**. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed following the US letting India and seven other nations to keep buying Iranian oil despite sanctions were reimposed on the Islamic state on November 5.

6. 'AI 4 All Global Hackathon' has been launched by which entity?

**Answer :** NITI Aayog

**Explanation :**

- **NITI Aayog** organised '**AI 4 All Global Hackathon**' to source sustainable, innovative and technologically-enabled solutions to address various challenges in the development space, with the vision of '**Artificial Intelligence, AI for All**'.
- NITI Aayog organized its first hackathon, '**MoveHack**' in **August**, on the sidelines of the **Global Mobility Summit 2018**.

### December 10

1. Which state became the only state to have four international airports in India?

**Answer :** Kerala

**Explanation :**

- Union Minister of Civil Aviation **Suresh Prabhu** and Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurated the **Kannur international airport making Kerala the only state in the country to have four international airports**.

- The other three international airports are Cochin International Airport, Trivandrum International Airport and Calicut International Airport.

2. The 18th All India Annual Conference of the Heads of Science Centre's and Museums began in which city?

**Answer :** Itanagar

**Explanation :**

- **The 18th All India Annual Conference of the Heads of Science Centre's and Museums** began at **Itanagar**. Environment and Forest Minister **Nabam Rebia** inaugurated the "**Innovation Hub and Space Education Centre**" situated at **Arunachal Pradesh Science Centre, Itanagar**.

3. The 10th Edition of the bilateral exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Federation Navy (RuFN) started at which place?

**Answer :** Vishakhapatnam

**Explanation :**

- The 10th Edition of the bilateral exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Federation Navy (RuFN) started at **Vishakhapatnam**. The Maritime exercise will conclude on December 16.
- The Primary aim of the exercise is to increase interoperability amongst the two navies, develop common understanding and procedures for maritime security operations.

4. India is set to get its first underwater museum at which place?

**Answer :** Puducherry

**Explanation :**

- **Indian Navy** agreed to gift **INS Cuddalore**, a decommissioned Pondicherry-class vessel, to the **Union territory of Puducherry** for the creation of country's first underwater museum.
- It would also help in enhanced marine biodiversity and boosting fishing industry.

5. According to a global economic research report, which city would be the world's fastest growing city in the 2019-35 periods?

**Answer :** Surat

**Explanation :**

- **Surat**, renowned as a diamond processing and trading hub in Gujarat, **would be the world's fastest growing city in the 2019-35 period**, averaging more than 9 per cent, according to a **global economic research report**. The report prepared by **Oxford Economics**
- Besides Surat, the other nine cities are Agra, Bengaluru Hyderabad, Nagpur, Tiruppur, Rajkot, Tiruchirappalli, Chennai and Vijayawada.

6. Who have been empowered by the central government to designate civil courts as special courts to adjudicate contracts relating to infrastructure projects?

**Answer :** Lieutenant governors (LGs) and administrators of Union territories

**Explanation :**

- **Lieutenant governors (LGs) and administrators of Union territories** have been empowered by the central government to designate civil courts as special courts to adjudicate contracts relating to infrastructure projects.
- This comes under **Section 20B of the Specific Relief Act, 1963 (47 of 1963)**.

## December 11

1. What is the loan amount of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved for a agreement of water sanitation project in Andhra Pradesh?

**Answer :** \$400-million

**Explanation :**

- The board of Beijing-headquartered **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank's (AIIB)** has approved a **\$400-million loan for a water sanitation project in Andhra Pradesh**, taking the overall exposure of the bank to India to \$2 billion spread over nine projects.
- The project will also reduce health risks and health expenditures for women in Andhra Pradesh.

2. India is set to get its first underwater museum at which place?

**Answer :** Puducherry

**Explanation :**

- **India is set to get its first underwater museum off the Puducherry coast**, giving a boost to tourism in the Union territory. **INS Cuddalore**, a minesweeper decommissioned in March after it travelled 30,000 nautical miles in 30 years, will be turned into a museum.

3. The first international conference on “Sustainable Water Management” will held in which city?

**Answer :** Mohali

**Explanation :**

- In order to promote sustainable policies for water management, **India** is organising the first international conference on ‘**Sustainable Water Management**’ on December 10-11 in Mohali in which experts from across the globe will participate.
- The conference is being jointly organised by the **National Hydrology Project**, and **Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation** in collaboration with the **Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)** at the Indian School of Business, Mohali.

4. Exercise “INDRA NAVY 18’ commenced in which city?

**Answer :** Visakhapatnam

**Explanation :**

- **Russian Federation Navy (RuFN)** ships Varyag, Admiral Panteleyev and Boris Butoma arrived in **Visakhapatnam** to participate in **INDRA NAVY-18**, the bilateral maritime exercise between the **Indian Navy and the Russian Federation Navy**.
- The primary aim of the exercise is to increase interoperability amongst the two navies, develop common understanding and procedures for maritime security operations.

5. Exercise “AVIAINDRA 2018” commences in which city?

**Answer :** Jodhpur (Rajasthan)

**Explanation :**

- A service-specific exercise between **the Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **Russian Federation Aerospace Force (RFSAF)** will commence at **Air Force Station, Jodhpur, Rajasthan**, from December 10 to 21.
- **EX AVIAINDRA-2018** is the second in the series of bilateral joint exercise, which is planned in two phases between India and Russia.

6. Which Indian Armed Force has conducted its first-ever exercise ‘CROSS BOW-18’?

**Answer :** The Indian Air Force (IAF)

**Explanation :**

- **The Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully concluded combined guided weapons firing of Surface-to-Air Missiles from the Air Force Station at **Suryalanka in Andhra Pradesh**, as part of a first-of-its-kind two-day exercise codenamed- **CROSS BOW 18**.
- The exercise was carried out on **December 5, 7 and 8 during** day and night in an integrated networked environment.

## December 12

1. Which state government launched a 24 hour helpline number “181” for women, among others, facing domestic violence and sexual harassment?

**Answer :** Tamil Nadu

**Explanation :**

- The **Tamil Nadu government** has launched a **24-hour toll free helpline “181” for women**, among others, facing domestic violence and sexual harassment.
- Women facing domestic violence and sexual harassment at home or workplaces can contact the **toll-free helpline 181**, to get assistance ranging from police help, legal aid or medical services including ambulance.

2. A 2-day Regional Conference on ‘Good Governance – Focus on Aspirational Districts’ concluded at which city?

**Answer :** Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

**Explanation :**

- A 2-day Regional Conference on ‘**Good Governance – Focus on Aspirational Districts**’ concluded at **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**. This conference was aimed at providing a common platform for formulation and implementation of best practices in citizen centric governance.

3. What is the objective of fourth Partners’ Forum in New Delhi?

**Answer :** Global Strategy of Survive – Thrive – Transform.

**Explanation :**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **fourth Partners’ Forum in New Delhi**. The objective of the conference is to improve knowledge, alignment and accountability to accelerate action on women’s, children’s and adolescents health.
- The programme has been framed around the objectives of the Global Strategy of **Survive – Thrive – Transform**.

4. The 24th district “Lepa Rada” was formally inaugurated in which state?

**Answer :** Arunachal Pradesh

**Explanation :**

- **Arunachal Pradesh** gets its **24th** district – **Lepa Rada**, a day after **Shi Yomi** became a new district. Lepa Rada is carved out of the Lower Siang district, comprising four administrative circles – Tirbin, Dari, Sago and Basar.

5. Upto which percent our Finance ministry decided to increase its contribution to NPS for the central government employees?

**Answer :** 14 percent

**Explanation :**

- **Finance Minister Arun Jaitley** said the Centre has decided **to increase its contribution to the NPS** for the central government employees **to 14 per cent** and also made the entire **withdrawal amount tax free at the time of retirement**.
- The central government's contribution to the **National Pension System (NPS)** will be increased to 14 per cent from the current 10 per cent.

### **December 13**

1. The first international conference on “Sexual Exploitation of Children in Digital Era” will be held in which city?

**Answer :** Kolkata

**Explanation :**

- **The first international conference on “Sexual Exploitation of Children in Digital Era”** will be held in Kolkata on December 14-15 to spread awareness among people. The global meet comes close on the heels of reports that India accounted for around 2.4 million instances of online child sexual abuse last year.

2. The portal ‘ENSURE’, which has been launched by Ministry of Agriculture for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), was developed by which organisation?

**Answer :** NABARD

**Explanation :**

- **The Agriculture Ministry** launched **online portal Ensure** to connect with direct benefit transfer and provide simple, useful and transparent system to the beneficiary.
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Shri **Radha Mohan Singh** launched the portal **ENSURE- National Livestock Mission- EDEG developed by NABARD** and operated under the **Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries**.

3. Name the conference on Dinacharya (Daily Regimen) and Ritucharya (Seasonal Regimen) for public health promotion was organized by AIIA?

**Answer :** AYUSHCHARYA

**Explanation :**

- A two day National conference ‘**AYUSHCHARYA**’ on Dinacharya (Daily Regimen) and **Ritucharya** (Seasonal Regimen) for public health promotion was organized by **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** in New Delhi.

4. Which state government announced creation of an umbrella university?

**Answer :** Uttar Pradesh

**Explanation :**

- The **Uttar Pradesh** Government announced creation of **an umbrella university** named after former Prime Minister **late Atal Bihari Vajpayee**. The University would be the

**controlling authority** of all the **medical** and **dental** colleges and **nursing** institutions in the state.

- This would help in bringing transparency in entrance and examination system and would enhance quality of medical education.

5. What stand for ACARE?

**Answer** : ‘Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research & Education’

**Explanation** :

- **President Ram Nath Kovind is on a state visit to Myanmar. He dedicated** – India assisted project ‘**Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research & Education (ACARE)** – to the people of Myanmar.
- The project focuses on Genetics, Post Harvest Technology, Participatory Knowledge Management and capacity building for farmers in Myanmar. The President also dedicated the **Rice Bio-Park to the people of Myanmar.**

### December 14

1. Which Court ordered a ban on the sale of online medicines by e-pharmacists across the country?

**Answer** : Delhi High Court

**Explanation** :

- The **Delhi High Court** ordered a ban on the **sale of online medicines by e-pharmacists across the country.** The court directed both Central and state government to ensure immediate implementation of the order.

2. How many states have achieved complete household electrification under the PM Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA) scheme?

**Answer** : Nine

**Explanation** :

- **Ministry of Power** announced that **9** states have achieved complete household electrification under the **PM Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA)** scheme.
  - These 9 states are: Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Mizoram, Sikkim, Telangana and West Bengal.

3. Which country to become a USD 5 trillion economy before 2025?

**Answer** : India

**Explanation** :

- The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** released the Year End review of the policies to envision the creation of a ‘**Vision of New India**’ which would propel the India to become a **USD 5 trillion economy** before **2025.**

4. Who is the Ambassador of the European Union to India?

**Answer** : H.E. Mr. Tomasz Kozlowski

**Explanation** :

- The **Ambassador of the European Union to India, H.E. Mr. Tomasz Kozlowski** inaugurated **India’s first Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence** at the Department of European Studies (DES) at the **Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal.**
- It will focus on India-EU Interdisciplinary Studies: Culture, Literature, Education and Society.

5. What is Uncrowned Glory?

**Answer :** An exhibition of Ethnic Ornaments of Himachal Pradesh

**Explanation :**

- **Dr Dharmendra Singh Gangwar**, Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Culture inaugurated the **third exhibition** of the 2nd series of collection titled **“Uncrowned Glory – An exhibition of Ethnic Ornaments of Himachal Pradesh”** in **National Museum, New Delhi**.
- This exhibition aims to showcase the silver and gold ornaments, from different communities and regions of Himachal Pradesh, through photographic prints.

### **December 15**

1. Who is the chairman of Banks Board Bureau?

**Answer :** B P Sharma

**Explanation :**

- The government has constituted a **seven-member** panel to select managing directors of public sector insurance companies. The panel would be headed by Banks Board Bureau (BBB) chairman **B P Sharma**.
- The other members of the panel are Financial Services Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises Secretary and Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India.

2. Which Indian Armed Force (IAF) has launched Operation Oliva to safeguard turtles in Odisha?

**Answer :** Indian Coast Guard

**Explanation :**

- The Indian Coast Guard has launched **‘Operation Oliver’** as part of its annual mission to ensure the safe mid-sea sojourn of breeding **Olive Ridley sea turtles** in **Gahirmatha marine sanctuary** area, Devi river mouth, and Rushikulya beach of **Odisha**.

3. What is IRIGC-MTC?

**Answer :** India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation

**Explanation :**

- India’s Minister of **Defense Nirmala Sitharaman** met with **Russian Federation General Sergei Shoigu** marking the 18th meeting of the **India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC)**.
- India and Russia agreed to extend bilateral cooperation on defence joint-venture (JV) manufacturing projects.

4. Who is the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation?

**Answer :** Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu

**Explanation :**

- To give a fillip to the medical device sector, which is a sunrise sector, **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu**, announced setting up of a **National Medical Devices Promotion Council** under the **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)** in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- The announcement was made at the occasion of the **4th WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices**, at Andhra Pradesh Medtech Zone, in Vishakhapatnam.

5. Which entity has launched the ECO Niwas Samhita 2018?

**Answer :** Ministry of Power

**Explanation :**

- **Ministry of Power** has launched the **ECO Niwas Samhita 2018**, an **Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings (ECBC-R)**.
- It aims to benefit the occupants and the environment by promoting energy efficiency in design and construction of homes, apartments and townships.

6. India's first private unmanned aerial vehicles on drone manufacturing facility has been inaugurated in which city?

**Answer :** Hyderabad

**Explanation :**

- **India's first private sector unit** for manufacturing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) was inaugurated by Telangana's Home Minister Mohammad Mahmood Ali at Adani Aerospace Park in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

**December 16**

1. India's first railway University opened up in which city?

**Answer :** Vadodara (Gujarat)

**Explanation :**

- **Union Railways Minister Piyush Goyal and Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani** dedicated the nation's first **National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI)** in **Vadodara, Gujarat**.
- It is India's first and world's **3rd** railway university after **Russia and China**.

2. What is the theme of an exhibition Kochi-Muziris Biennale?

**Answer :** "Possibilities for a Non-Alienated Life"

**Explanation :**

- 4th Edition of India's largest contemporary art exhibition **Kochi-Muziris Biennale (KMB)** featuring a dynamic range of multi-media artworks held in Kochi with a theme **"Possibilities for a Non-Alienated Life"**.
- The Biennale was curated by Anita Dube and it was the first Biennale in the world where half of the participating artists are women.

3. Which state has become the first state in the country to have a law banning sexual exploitation?

**Answer :** Jammu and Kashmir

**Explanation :**

- **Jammu and Kashmir** became the first state in the country to enact a law banning sexual exploitation of women "by those in positions of authority, having a fiduciary relationship or a public servant".

4. Who is the Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (I/C)?

**Answer :** Giriraj Singh

**Explanation :**

- Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (I/C), **Giriraj Singh** inaugurated a **Multi-Disciplinary Training Centre (MTDC)** of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) named **Samadhan** at **Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat in New Delhi**.

5. Which is the forth cyclone to hit the eastern coast this season?

**Answer :** Phethai

**Explanation :**

- As per India Meteorological Department (IMD), Coastal Andhra Pradesh and North Tamil Nadu are expected to receive heavy rainfall on 16th and 17th December due to a severe cyclone **Phethai** which is heading towards coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- This is the fourth cyclone to hit the eastern coast this season.

### **December 17**

1. Which country's President recently visited India and hold talks with Indian PM Narendra Modi?

**Answer :** Maldives

**Explanation :**

- **Maldives' new President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih** arrived in New Delhi on a three-day state visit during which he will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi aimed at strengthening bilateral ties.
- Solih, who surprisingly defeated Maldivian strongman Abdulla Yameen in polls in September, arrived in New Delhi on his first foreign visit after assuming office and was received by Union minister Hardeep S Puri.

2. Who is the Ministry of Railways?

**Answer :** Piyush Goyal

**Explanation :**

- Ministry of Railways under **Piyush Goyal** decided to give a discount of 25 per cent on existing haulage rate per **Twenty Feet Equivalent Unit (TEU)** on the transport of empty containers as well empty flat container wagons.

3. Where was National Workshop on Explosive Detection (NWED -2018) held at?

**Answer :** High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune

**Explanation :**

- The first ever two days, **National Workshop on Explosive Detection (NWED -2018)** was held at High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (**HEMRL**) Pune, Maharashtra.
- Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) Chief **Atulchandra Kulkarni** was the chief guest of the workshop.

4. What stand for IHAMP?

**Answer :** Institute of High Altitude Medicinal Plants

**Explanation :**

- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH **Shri Shripad Yesso Naik** and Union Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office (PMO) **Dr. Jitendra Singh** laid the foundation stone of **Institute of High Altitude Medicinal Plants (IHAMP)** with an estimated cost of Rs. 100 crore at Baderwah in District Doda in Jammu & Kashmir.

### **December 18**

1. Which district court became the first court in India to allow e-payments of court fee?

**Answer :** Pune

**Explanation :**

- **Pune** District court became the **first** court in India to allow **e-payments** of court fee, judicial deposits, fines and penalties, the facility which will be eventually available across all courtrooms in the country to bring transparency to cash transactions.
- The Pune district court administration is starting the e-payment facility in the **Shivajinager** district and sessions court.

2. Kaiga Atomic Power Station has created a world record for continuous operation. Where is Kaiga Atomic Power located?

**Answer :** Karnataka

**Explanation :**

- Equipped with **Bharat Heavy Electricals** supplied Nuclear power equipment, **the 220 MW Unit 1** at the indigenously developed **Kaiga Atomic Power Station (KAPS) of Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL)**, has created a world record for continuous operation in Karnataka.
- Recently, the unit has registered **941 days** of continuous operation, surpassing the earlier world record of 940 days held by Heysham-Unit 2 of the United Kingdom.

3. Silao Khaja, which recently got GI tag, is the traditional delicacy of which state?

**Answer :** Bihar

**Explanation :**

- **Geographical Indications Registry at Chennai** has granted **GI tag to Silao Khaja**, the traditional delicacy of **Nalanda district of Bihar**. The application was filed by **Silao Khaja Audyogik Swavalambi Sahakari Samiti Limited**.

4. What is the purpose of Information fusion centre (IFC) for the Indian Ocean Region at IMAC in Gurugram?

**Answer :** Improve the Indian Navy's 'Maritime Domain Awareness'

**Explanation :**

- **Indian Navy** is all set to establish the **information fusion centre (IFC)** for the **Indian Ocean Region** at the Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in **Gurugram**.
- The centre is aimed at collecting the data on **commercial shipping or 'white shipping' in the Indian Ocean region**. This will improve the Indian Navy's '**Maritime Domain Awareness**'.

5. Who will inaugurate a new campus of IIT-Bhubaneswar?

**Answer :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**Explanation :**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is scheduled to visit Odisha on December 24 during which he will inaugurate a new campus of **IIT-Bhubaneswar and launch a host of other projects**.

## December 19

1. India's largest cancer hospital opened up in which state?

**Answer :** Haryana

**Explanation :**

- **The National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Jhajjar, Haryana**, which is also India's largest cancer hospital, opened for public service with the formal inauguration to be held in January.
- The NCI, which is a project under Delhi's **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** will be headed by **Dr G.K. Rath** who is also the chief of Institute Rotary Cancer hospital at AIIMS.

2. How much financial aid was provided for establishment of odiya Cultural Centre in Gujarat's Surat for their social celebrations?

**Answer :** Rs 10 crore

**Explanation :**

- Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** has announced financial aid of **Rs 10 crore for establishment of Odiya Cultural Centre in Gujarat's Surat** for their social celebrations.

3. "Uncrowned Glory – An exhibition of Ethnic Ornaments of Himachal Pradesh" was held at which city?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- The third exhibition in the 2nd series from reserve collection titled "**Uncrowned Glory – An exhibition of Ethnic Ornaments of Himachal Pradesh**" was inaugurated by Dr Dharmendra Singh Gangwar, Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Culture, Government of India at **National Museum, New Delhi**.

4. Which is the capital city of Madhya Pradesh?

**Answer :** Bhopal

**Explanation :**

- The **Adventure Travel Trade Association (ATTA)** will hold its **first Adventure NEXT event** in Asia in **Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh**, India.
- It **focused on adventure tourism** by combining marketplace (chowk Bazar), meetings, networking opportunities.

5. India's first military flight using blended bio-jet fuel has been successfully flown on which aircrafts?

**Answer :** An-32

**Explanation :**

- The **Indian Air Force** flown India's first military flight using Blended Bio-Jet Fuel on an An-32 transport aircraft in Chandigarh. The project is a combined effort of IAF, DRDO, Directorate General Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA) and CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum.

### **December 20**

1. "4th WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices "Increasing access to medical devices" to be held in which state?

**Answer :** Andhra Pradesh

**Explanation :**

- The **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**, along with the **World Health Organization** organized the “**4th WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices “Increasing access to medical devices”** to be held in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India**.

2. What is Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU–GKY)?

**Answer :** The flagship placement linked skill-training programme under the Ministry of Rural Development

**Explanation :**

- **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** signed a MoU with **Maruti Suzuki India Ltd** for training rural youth for skill development under **Deendayal upadhyaya grameen kaushalya yojana (Ddu-Gky)**.
- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU–GKY) is the flagship placement linked skill-training programme under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).

3. Which military communication satellite launched by ISRO from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh?

**Answer :** GSAT-7A

**Explanation :**

- **ISRO launched its military communication satellite GSAT-7A from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**. The satellite GSAT-7A is the 35th Indian communication satellite weighing 2,250 kg.
- GSAT-7A will be the **first** satellite built primarily for the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** to qualitatively unify its assets and improve combined, common intelligence during operations.

4. The ninth meeting of the India Republic of Korea Joint Commission will held in which city?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- The ninth meeting of the **India-Republic of Korea (ROK/ South Korea) Joint Commission** will be held in **New Delhi** during the South Korean Foreign Minister **Kang Kyung-wha**’s official two-day from December 18 to 19 in New Delhi.

5. Which mobile application was launched in Patna?

**Answer :** “Chuppi Tod”(break your silence)

**Explanation :**

- A mobile application “**Chuppi Tod**” (**break your silence**) was launched in **Patna** to fight the rampant social evil of child marriage and sexual harassment.
- Launched by noted women rights campaigner **Prashanti Tiwari**, the application will educate women and girls on the evils of sexual harassment and child marriage.

6. What stand for CBDT?

**Answer :** Central Board of Direct Taxes

**Explanation :**

- **The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** ordered creation of a 12 member committee of senior officials chaired by **S K Dash** for a fresh cadre review and restructuring of the Income Tax Department.

- The decision was taken by the government with a aim to create a “caring but strict” direct taxes regime in the country.

## **December 21**

1. Which Government has announced three schemes for the welfare of farmers?

**Answer :** Assam

**Explanation :**

- **Assam government** has announced **three schemes for the welfare of farmers**. The schemes are the **Assam Farmers’ Credit Subsidy Scheme (AFCSS)**, **Assam Farmers’ Interest Relief Scheme (AFIRS)** and **Assam Farmers’ Incentive Scheme (AFIS)**.

2. ‘Strategy for New India @75’ launched by NITI Aayog, defining clear objectives for 2022-23, aims to establish a New India by \_\_\_\_\_?

**Answer :** 2022

**Explanation :**

- **NITI Aayog unveiled its comprehensive national Strategy for New India titled ‘Strategy for New India @75’**, which defines **clear objectives for 2022-23**. The document was released by the **Finance Minister of India Mr Arun Jaitley**.
- The Strategy Document advocates empowering and encouraging women to participate across all sectors of the economy, to build a strong and inclusive New India.

3. NASSCOM partnered with which institute to provide re-skilling/upskilling of 4 million people on digital skills?

**Answer :** IIT-Madras

**Explanation :**

- Industry body **the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)** partnered with **IIT-Madras** to provide re-skilling/upskilling of four million people on digital skills.
- It would provide reskilling on new emerging technologies like AI, IOT, CyberSecurity, Big Data, Cloud and BlockChain.

4. Name the state that Ranked Best Performer in first ever States Start-up Ranking 2018 released by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)?

**Answer :** Gujarat

**Explanation :**

- **Gujarat Ranked Best Performer in first ever States Start-up Ranking 2018** released by **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)** at an event in New Delhi.
- The objective of the exercise was to encourage States and Union Territories to take proactive steps towards strengthening the Start-up ecosystems in their states.

5. Who is the CM of Mehalaya?

**Answer :** Conrad K Sangma

**Explanation :**

- **Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad K Sangma launched the Meghalaya Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS-IV)** in convergence with that of the Centre’s Ayushman Bharat scheme.

- MHIS-IV covers all citizens in the state while the Ayushman Bharat (Centre's Scheme) targeted the bottom 40 percent of lower income families.

## **December 22**

1. How much amount was sanctioned by Maharashtra government for the Tembhu lift irrigation scheme in Satara district?

**Answer :** Rs 4,089 crore

**Explanation :**

- The Maharashtra government has approved a **sum of Rs 4,089 crore** for the **Tembhu lift irrigation scheme in Satara district.**
- The irrigation project will benefit the perennially drought prone areas of **Satara, Solapur and Sangli districts.**

2. India's International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) rating remains in which category, as per the US regulator Federation of Aviation Administration (FAA)?

**Answer :** Category 1

**Explanation :**

- The US regulator **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** has retained the **highest aviation safety** ranking for **India.** The Federal Aviation Administration carried out an audit of the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in July 2018.**
- FAA formally confirmed that **India's International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA)** rating remains '**Category 1**'.

3. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched conservation Project with an aim to protect which range of species?

**Answer :** Asiatic Lion

**Explanation :**

- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,** launched the '**Asiatic Lion Conservation Project**' with an aim to protect and conserve the world's last ranging free population of Asiatic Lion.
- The project will be funded through, **the Development of Wildlife Habitat,** a centrally sponsored scheme (CSS-DWH), with the contributing ratio of 60:40 for central and state share.

4. Where was the 15th edition of Global SME Business Summit organised by Ministry of MSME, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Government e-marketplace?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- **15th** edition of a two day **Global SME Business Summit** was organised by the Ministry of MSME and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with Government e-marketplace in New Delhi.
- The theme of the event was '**Building Partnerships through Global Value Chains.**'

5. How much loan was received by India from Japan for various development projects that will be used to build Chennai Metro Project?

**Answer :** Rs 6668.46 crore

**Explanation :**

- India and Japan Exchanged notes on Japanese Official Development assistance loan of **Yen 105.497 billion** (approximately Rs 6668.46 crore) for three projects which are as follows:
- Chennai Metro Project (Phase 2) for JPY 75.519 billion.
- Program for Japan-India Cooperative Actions towards sustainable Development goals in India for JPY 15 Billion.
- Project for Dairy Development for JPY 14.978 billion.

### December 23

1. Which state Cabinet approved Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme?

**Answer :** Odisha

**Explanation :**

- **Odisha state Cabinet** approved **Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme**, amounting to over **Rs 10,000 crore** covering 92 per cent of cultivators.
- This scheme covers 92 per cent of cultivators; those who have taken farm loans, non-loanee farmers, sharecroppers, and landless agriculture laborers.

2. Name the chairman of the Logistics Development Committee constituted by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)?

**Answer :** Dr. Bibek Debroy

**Explanation :**

- The **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC- PM)** constituted a **Logistics Development Committee** under the Chairmanship of **Dr. Bibek Debroy, Chairman EAC-PM.**
- The committee would be working on challenges in logistics development and associated commerce and suggest policy reforms for ease of doing trade in India.

3. Train 18 was launched by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in which city?

**Answer :** Chennai

**Explanation :**

- A Train-18 like new generation **Mainline Electrical Multiple Unit (MEMU)** with underslung equipment and some features from the Train 18 was launched by the **Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai.**
- The new train is equipped with a CCTV surveillance system both inside the coaches.

4. Union Minister Dr Harsh vardhan inaugurated Atal Complex for the International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCOcean) in which city?

**Answer :** Hyderabad

**Explanation :**

- **Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment and Forests & Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan** inaugurated the newly constructed **International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITC Ocean) Complex** in the **INCOIS** campus at **Hyderabad, Telangana.**

5. Theme of 15th edition of a two day Global SME Business Summit?

**Answer :** “Building Partnerships through Global Value Chains”

**Explanation :**

- The **15th** edition of a two day **Global SME Business Summit** was organised by the **Ministry of MSME** and **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** in association with Government e-marketplace **in New Delhi**.
- The **theme** of the event was **‘Building Partnerships through Global Value Chains.’**

## **December 24**

1. Who launched the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurugram?

**Answer :** Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman (Defence Minister)

**Explanation :**

- Defence Minister **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** launched the **Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)** at Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) Gurugram.
- The IFC-IOR is aimed to engage with partner nations to develop maritime domain awareness and share information on vessels of interest in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

2. Where did President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurate the Centre of Excellence for Genetic Blood Disorders?

**Answer :** Karimnagar (Telangana)

**Explanation :**

- The President of India, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, on his first visit to Karimnagar, inaugurated the **Centre of Excellence Genetic Blood Disorders** at the Prathima Institute of Medical Sciences **in Karimnagar, Telangana**.
- This centre will work on Sickle Cell Anaemia, Thalassaemia and Other Genetic Blood Disorders. India has the largest number of children with Thalassaemia major in the world.

3. Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and which state topped the charts as the best performing states under the maternity benefit programme named Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana?

**Answer :** Madhya Pradesh

**Explanation :**

- **Minister of State for the Women and Child Development Ministry Virendra Kumar** released the performance of states and UTs under the maternity benefit programme named **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana**.
- **Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh** topped the charts as the best performing states.

4. Name the states have emerged as top performing states in Niti Aayog’s SDG India index 2018?

**Answer :** Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu

**Explanation :**

- **Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu** have emerged as **top performing states in Niti Aayog’s SDG India index 2018**, which evaluates progress in social, economic and environmental terms.
- Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are the worst performing states in the government think tank’s first of its kind India Index for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

5. Where was the 55th SKOCH Summit held on 22nd December 2018?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- The **55th SKOCH Summit** was held in Constitution Club of India, **New Delhi**. It was hosted by **SKOCH group**, the think tank for socio-economic issues with focus on inclusive growth.
- A book titled **India 2030** was also released on the occasion. West Bengal won **31 SKOCH** awards for its performance in different fields.

### December 25

1. Which state houses the Lalitgiri Archaeological Museum inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

**Answer :** Odisha

**Explanation :**

- One of the earliest **Buddhist settlements in Odisha, Lalitgiri**, where excavations have yielded ancient seals and inscriptions, has been converted into a museum. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the museum through video conference **from Bhubaneswar**.
- It became the **third site museum of the Bhubaneswar circle** of the **Archaeological Survey of India** after Ratnagiri and Konrak.

2. Which city of Tamil Nadu is to be venue of India's first Music Museum?

**Answer :** Thiruvaiyaru

**Explanation :**

- **The country's first music museum** will be set up with assistance from the Central government **in Thiruvaiyaru, Tamilnadu**, the birth place of **Saint Tyagaraja, one of the Trinities of Carnatic music**.
- **The Tyagaraja Aaradhana Music Festival** which is held annually in January in Thiruvaiyaru attracts musical talents from all over the world.

3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative Rs 100 coin in memory of whose?

**Answer :** Former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

**Explanation :**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative **Rs 100 coin** in memory of former prime minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
- The coin was released on commemoration of the birth anniversary of the late Pm on December 25, which is also celebrated as 'Good Governance Day'.

4. Where did Minister Prime Narendra Modi launch the website for the Cyber Coordination Centre?

**Answer :** Gujarat

**Explanation :**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the website for the **Cyber Coordination Centre** on the concluding day of 3-Day **Conference of Director Generals of Police**, which was organized at Kevadiya in **Narmada** district of **Gujarat**.
- It would also act as bridge between law enforcement agencies on the one hand, and academia and private cyber security professionals on the other.

5. Where did sixth edition of five-day long Yuva Natya Samaroh hold at?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- **Sahitya Kala Parishad**, Department of Art, Culture and Languages, **Government of Delhi**, organized the sixth edition of five-day long **Yuva Natya Samaroh** at Kamani Auditorium in New Delhi. The event will conclude on 26th December.

## December 26

1. Name the India's longest railroad bridge in Assam?

**Answer :** Bogibeel bridge

**Explanation :**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated Bogibeel bridge, India's longest railroad bridge in **Assam**. Till now **Vembanad rail bridge in Kerala** was dubbed as the longest railway-bridge in India at 4.62km of length.
- It is India's only fully welded bridge for which european codes and welding standards were adhered to for the first time in the country.

2. Name Indian Navy's 10th Naval Hospital Ship that was commissioned at the Naval station Karanja in Uran, Maharashtra?

**Answer :** 'INHS Sandhani'

**Explanation :**

- The **Indian Navy** commissioned its **10th Naval Hospital Ship** named '**INHS Sandhani**' at the Naval station Karanja in Uran near **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- It has a team of specialists in the fields of medicine, surgery, gynaecology, paediatrics, anaesthesia and dental sciences.

3. In which city, a 25 feet high statue of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee will be installed?

**Answer :** Lucknow

**Explanation :**

- **A 25 feet high statue of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee will be installed in the Lok Bhawan in Lucknow**, Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** announced. He was speaking at a function held to celebrate the **94th birth anniversary** of the late leader.

4. Which state renamed all the Child Care Institutes being run in the state as "Jagannath Ashrams"?

**Answer :** Haryana

**Explanation :**

- Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** announced to name all the **Child Care Institutes** being run in the state as '**Jagannath Ashrams**.'
- The Chief Minister made this announcement while addressing the people during a dance competition organised by women wing of **All India Vaish Federation, in Karnal**.

5. According to Union Minister for Science and Technology and Environment Harsh Vardhan, said India is firmly on its course to become one of the top two scientifically advanced nations in the world by which year?

**Answer :** 2030

**Explanation :**

- Union Minister for Science and Technology and Environment **Harsh Vardhan** said **India** is firmly on its course to become **one of the top two scientifically advanced nations in the world by 2030**.
- The minister said the country has made significant progress in the fields of nano technology, space science under the **Narendra Modi** government.

### December 27

1. Who is the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand?

**Answer :** Trivendra Singh Rawat

**Explanation :**

- Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, **Trivendra Singh Rawat** launched the ‘**Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana**’ in **Dehradun**. Under the scheme, each household in the state will be able to avail medical treatment of up to **5 lakh rupees** annually.
- He also launched the mobile application and website for ‘Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana’.

2. What is MeitY?

**Answer :** Union Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology

**Explanation :**

- To end the complete encryption system to trace ‘unlawful’ activities for better national security, the **Union Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** announced draft rules of the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2018**.
- It will be mandatory for online platforms to deploy technology to enable access to content seen as “unlawful”.

3. \_\_\_\_ in Madhya Pradesh, was notified as ‘national park’, in Gujarat?

**Answer :** Kuno

**Explanation :**

- **Kuno, in Madhya Pradesh**, was notified as ‘**national park**’. This move was made after the compliance with the last condition imposed by a Supreme Court was met.
- This would enable translocation of lions from Gir in Gujarat to Kuno.

4. The Baduga tribal community of which state celebrated their annual Heddaiyamman festival?

**Answer :** Tamil Nadu

**Explanation :**

- The tribal **Baduga** community in the **Nilgiris** district of **Tamil Nadu** celebrated their annual **Heddaiyamman** festival. The Badugas are an indigenous tribal group in the Nilgiris and occupy more than 400 remote hill villages in the district.

### December 28

1. What is the main objective of 12th Annual Indian Subcontinent Decision Sciences Institute (ISDSI) conference commenced in SPJIMR, Mumbai?

**Answer :** “Data Driven Decision Making in the Digital Age”

**Explanation :**

- The four day long **12th Annual Indian Subcontinent Decision Sciences Institute (ISDSI)** conference commenced in **SPJIMR, Mumbai**.
- The theme of this international conference is **“Data Driven Decision Making in the Digital Age”**.

2. Name the district that has topped the Second Delta Ranking of the Aspirational Districts Programme, released by NITI Aayog?

**Answer :** Virudhunagar ,Tamil Nadu

**Explanation :**

- **The NITI Aayog ranked Jharkhand’s Pakur district the worst and Tamil Nadu’s Virudhunagar the best among the nation’s 111 backward districts.** The **“Transformation of Aspirational Districts”** programme aims to quickly and effectively transform some of the most underdeveloped districts of the country.
- The second **“delta ranking”** of backward districts which the **NITI Aayog** has dubbed as aspirational districts was released by its **CEO Amitabh Kant**, reflecting the incremental progress made by the districts between June and October.

3. In Assam, the third Dwijing Festival has begun on which river?

**Answer :** Aye river

**Explanation :**

- **In Assam, the third Dwijing Festival** has begun on the bank of **Aye river at Chirang district**. Adventure sports, food mart, cultural events, traditional games are being organized in the 12 daylong event. Participants from Thailand, Bhutan and Bangladesh are also taken part in the festival.
- Assam Public Health Engineering (PHE) minister **Rihon Daimary** inaugurated the festival in presence of several dignitaries.

4. Which city is the venue of the 26th National Children’s Science Congress (NCSC)?

**Answer :** Bhubaneswar

**Explanation :**

- **The 26th National Childres’s Science Congress has been inaugurated by the Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik in Bhubaneswar.** Inaugurating the Congress session, Shri Patnaik has said that the progress of science is essential for the National growth and healthy Nation.

5. Which state’s very own High Court will begin functioning from January 1?

**Answer :** Andhra Pradesh

**Explanation :**

- **Andhra Pradesh’s** very own High Court will begin functioning from **January 1**. The **Ministry of Law and Justice** notified the constitution of the High Court in **Amaravati**.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** signed a notification in this regard. Andhra Pradesh High Court will be the 25th High Court in the country.

## December 29

1. What is the main theme of 12th Annual Indian Subcontinent Decision Sciences Institute (ISDSI) Conference at SPJIMR, Mumbai?

Answer : “Data-Driven Decision Making in the Digital Age”

**Explanation :**

- **S. P. Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR)** hosted the **12th Annual Indian Subcontinent Decision Sciences Institute (ISDSI) Conference at SPJIMR, Mumbai**. The main objective of this conference is to provide a platform for academicians, researchers and practitioners.
- The **theme** of this international conference is “**Data-Driven Decision Making in the Digital Age**”.

2. President RN Kovind inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the Yoga Institute, the world’s oldest organized institute of yoga studies in which city?

**Answer :** Mumbai

**Explanation :**

- **President R.N. Kovind inaugurated the centenary celebrations of The Yoga Institute, the world’s oldest organized institute of yoga studies**, which turned 100 recently.
- It became the **country’s first Yoga school certified by the Quality Council of India, Ministry of AYUSH**, and bagged the Prime Minister’s Award 2018 for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of the ancient Indian science.

3. National Human rights Commission launched which toll free number to file complaints through Common Services centre (CSC)?

**Answer :** 14433

**Explanation :**

- **The NHRC launched a toll-free number** and also a facility to file complaints through **Common Service Centre (CSC)**. Justice (retd) **H L Dattu**, the Chairperson of the **National Human Rights Commission**, unveiled the **toll-free number 14433** at a brief ceremony at the Manav Adhikar Bhawan, New Delhi.

4. Who laid foundation stones for eleven projects for Yamuna Rejuvenation under the Namami Gange Programme in New Delhi?

**Answer :** Shri Nitin Gadkari

**Explanation :**

- **Shri Nitin Gadkari**, the current **Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Road Transport & Highways and Shipping** laid foundation stones for **eleven projects for Yamuna Rejuvenation** under the **Namami Gange Programme** in **New Delhi**.

5. Which city was awarded Best Capital City in the Solid Waste Management in the Swachh Survekshan 2018 rankings?

**Answer :** Hyderabad

**Explanation :**

- **The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC)** has been awarded **Best Capital City** in the Solid Waste Management in the **Swachh Survekshan 2018 rankings**.
- The Swachh Survekshan survey ranks cities on various sanitation parameters. The GHMC was also at the 27th place among 4,041 cities.

## December 30

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 6th IRRI South Asia Regional Centre in which city?

Answer : Varanasi

**Explanation :**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **IRRI South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC) at the campus of National Seed Research and Training Centre (NSRTC) in Varanasi.**
- The first international centre in eastern India is expected to improve crop production, seed quality and the nutritional value of rice.

2. Where was the three-day Rosogolla fest known as “Bagbazar-O-Rasogolla” launched on 28th December 2018?

Answer : Kolkata, West Bengal

**Explanation :**

- A postal stamp dedicated to **Nabin Chandra Das, inventor of Rosogolla** was launched on the inaugural day of the three-day festival, **Bagbazar-O-Rosogolla.**
- The **Geographical Indication Tag (GI Tag)** for **Rasgulla** has been granted to **West Bengal** in the year **2017.**

3. Who is the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment?

Answer : Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar

**Explanation :**

- **Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar,** attended the inaugural function of **ALIMCO’s 6th Auxiliary Production Unit and State-of-the-Art Limb Fitting Center** as the Chief Guest in Village Nawada, Tigaon, **Ballabgarh, Faridabad.**

4. Which state/union territory police has become the first police force in India to digitise all malkhanas across every police station under the e-malkhana project?

Answer : Delhi Police

**Explanation :**

- **Delhi Police** becomes **first police force** in country to digitise all malkhanas across every police station in the state under the **e-malkhana project.**
- Also, the e-malkhana project of the remaining 10 districts at Chinamaya Mission was also inaugurated by the Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik.

5. Where did President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurate the 12th Global Healthcare Summit on 28th December 2018?

Answer : Mumbai

**Explanation :**

- The President of India, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind,** inaugurated the **12th Global Healthcare Summit** organized by the **American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin in Mumbai** on **28th December 2018.**
- Earlier in the day, the President addressed **The Yoga Institute, Mumbai,** which is celebrating its **centenary.**

## December 31

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of a Medical College in which city?

Answer : Ghazipur

**Explanation :**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visited Varanasi and Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh for one day. He announced that **Poorvanchal** will be made a medical hub, and a centre for research in agriculture.
- He also laid the foundation stone of a **Medical College in Ghazipur**.

2. Which was the first state to adopt the Mahila Police Volunteer Scheme (MPVs) which aims to engage MPVs as a link between police and community and help women in distress?

Answer : Haryana

**Explanation :**

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Home Affairs** has approved the proposals of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh for implementation of **Mahila Police Volunteer Scheme (MPVs)**.

3. How much amount was approved by the Union Cabinet for the proposed human spaceflight mission Gaganyaan?

Answer : Rs 10,000 crore

**Explanation :**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the **Gaganyaan project** under which a **three-member crew** will be sent to space for **at least seven days**, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad stated. The project will cost **INR 10,000 crore**.
- India has already inked agreements with **Russia and France** for assistance in the ambitious project.

4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced how much amount financial assistance to Bhutan for its 12th five-year plan?

Answer : Rs.4,500 crore

**Explanation :**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced **Rs.4,500 crore** financial assistance to **Bhutan** for its **12th five-year plan** after holding wide-ranging talks with his Bhutanese counterpart **Lotay Tshering**.
- The new five-year plan of Bhutan began in 2018 and will continue till **2022**.

5. What was the objective of the 42nd Indian Social Science Congress?

Answer : 'Human Future in Digital Era'

**Explanation :**

- The **42nd Indian Social Science Congress** was inaugurated by **Manipur governor Dr Najma Heptulla** at KIIT University campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- The theme of the Congress was '**Human Future in Digital Era**.'

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### December 1

1. Which country sets a goal to become the first major economy to be 'Climate Neural'?

**Answer :** European Union

**Explanation :**

- The European Union sets a goal to become the first major economy to be ‘**Climate Neural**’ by 2050 after that the emissions of greenhouse gases needs to be offset by planting trees or burying the gases underground. As per European Union, this target can be achieved by using **Solar and Wind Energy** for electricity generation.

2. How many new elements added by UNESCO to its list of “intangible heritage”?

**Answer :** Six

**Explanation :**

- From Jamaican reggae, Georgian wrestling and Japanese rituals, the **UN cultural agency**, UNESCO, added six new elements to its list of “**intangible heritage**” for the world to treasure, improving the visibility of often little-known and understood arts traditions.
- They were added at the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage meeting held in Mauritius.

2. What is the target of 7th India and China joint military exercises?

**Answer :** counter-terrorism operations

**Explanation :**

- **The militaries of China and India** would hold a joint 14-day drill from December 10 in southwest **China’s Chengdu city** to improve their **capabilities in fighting terrorism and promote mutual understanding**.
- Each side will send 100 troops to take part in the **7th India and China joint military exercises – ‘Hand in Hand’** – which will focus on **counter-terrorism operations**.

## **December 2**

1. Which is the first country in world to recognise orphanage trafficking as a form of modern-day slavery?

**Answer :** Australia

**Explanation :**

- **Australia** has become the **first** country in the world to recognise so-called **orphanage trafficking as a form of modern-day slavery**. The legislation forms part of a wider drive to stop Australians taking part in “voluntourism” schemes which harm rather than help the children.
- A report by **ReThink Orphanages** found more than 57% of Australian universities advertise orphanage placements, with 14% of Australian schools visiting, volunteering or fundraising for institutions abroad.

2. Who receive ASEAN – India Achievement award for the businessman of year?

**Answer :** Mr. Pardeep Batra

**Explanation :**

- **The 3rd ASEAN – India Business Summit (AIBS)**, conclave organized under the aegis of **Ministry of International Trade and Industries** conducted its annual achievements awards ceremony at the St. Regis Hotel in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**. The ceremony

was presided by the Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry **YB Datuk Ignatius Darell Leiking**.

- Spice Garden group of restaurants owner **Mr. Pardeep Batra** received the special **ASEAN – India Achievement award for the businessman of year**.

### December 3

1. How many country participate Asia Pacific Summit 2018?

Answer : 1500 participants from 45 countries

#### **Explanation :**

- Focus on various global issues including peace, development, good governance and role of parliamentarians, climate change and role of media, two day Asia Pacific Summit-2018 has started in **Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal**. This summit was organized by South Korea-based Universal Peace Federation and supported by the Government of Nepal. This summit has attended by 1500 participants from 45 countries including India.
- **Theme 2018** is “Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, and Universal Values”.

2. What is the meaning of the word nomophobia?

Answer : fear or worry at the idea of being without your mobile phone or unable to use it

#### **Explanation :**

- Based on the results of a popular vote, **Cambridge Dictionary has named “nomophobia”, the “fear or worry at the idea of being without your mobile phone or unable to use it” as word of the year**. The shortlist choices were selected from the year’s new additions to the online dictionary and were chosen based on their popularity and relevance.

### December 4

1. Where did held Asia Pacific Summit 2018?

Answer : Nepal

#### **Explanation :**

- The **Asia Pacific Summit 2018-Nepal**, organised by the controversial South Korea-based Universal Peace Federation and supported by the **Government of Nepal, kicks off in Kathmandu**.
- It would help promote tourism and support ‘**Visit Nepal Year 2020**’ initiative, highlight the successfully concluded peace process and promulgation of new constitution and explore new diplomatic and business opportunities for Nepal.

2. OPEC stands for?

Answer : Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

#### **Explanation :**

- **Qatar’s Energy Minister Saad Sherida al-Kaabi** announced that **Qatar will withdraw from the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** in January 2019.

- Qatar joined the organisation consisting of 15 oil producing countries in 1962. The decision was taken as Qatar's wants to focus its efforts to increase its natural gas production.

### December 5

1. Where is Romania honorary consulate in India?

Answer : Chennai

#### **Explanation :**

- **H.E. Mr. Teodor Melescanu**, Foreign Minister of **Romania** visited India, recently. In the discussions, External Affairs Minister, **Smt. Sushma Swaraj**, highlighted the constructive cooperation between the two countries **on international and bilateral issues**.
- During the visit, Romania will formally open its **Honorary Consulate** in Chennai. Romania will take over the **Presidency of the European Council in January 2019**.

### December 6

1. Which countries ink agreement for currency swap?

Answer : UAE and India

#### **Explanation :**

- **UAE and India** has inked a **currency swap agreement**, which means businesses can now can do trade using local currencies of rupee and dirham, instead of dollar. Both leaders also agreed **to boost cooperation in trade, security and defence**.
- The leaders also decided **to strengthen their resolve to combat extremism and terrorism** in all its forms, regardless of the perpetrators and their intent.

### December 7

1. Which is the world's most powerful passports of 2018?

Answer : UAE

#### **Explanation :**

- **The UAE** now has the **world's most powerful passport**, achieving the top ranking in an achievement hailed as a tribute to the legacy of the Founding Father, Sheikh Zayed, and the country's diplomacy.
- The number 1 spot in the **global Passport Index** was achieved just as the UAE celebrates its 47th National Day and its achievements since 1971.

2. Which countries ink agreement for mutual assistance in Customs Matters?

Answer : Peru and India

#### **Explanation :**

- **India** has signed an agreement with **Peru for co-operation and mutual assistance in Customs Matters**. It provides a **legal framework for the sharing of information and intelligence** between the Customs authorities of the two countries.
- It is also expected **to facilitate trade** and ensure efficient clearance of goods traded between the two sides.

3. Which company has released the world's first ever 3D printed bike?

Answer : Slovak company Kinazo

**Explanation :**

- The Slovak company Kinazo has released the world's first ever 3D printed bike, which was introduced at the conference "**The Current Evolution of 3D Printing**" in Volkswagen Slovakia, Stupava.

**December 8**

1. Who has launched the largest Arabic audio library in the world?

Answer : Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

**Explanation :**

- **Dubai Crown Prince Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum** has launched the **largest Arabic audio library in the world.**
- The **Dubai Audio Library**, which targets seven million visually impaired people in the Arab world, was an initiative undertaken by the **Roads and Transport Authority (RTA)** in collaboration with the website Bookshare.org.

2. Which country is becomes the first country in the world to make all its public transport free?

Answer : Luxembourg

**Explanation :**

- **Luxembourg** is set to become the **first country in the world to make all its public transport free.** Fares on trains, trams and buses will be lifted next summer under the plans of the re-elected coalition government led by **Xavier Bettel**, who were sworn in for a second term as prime minister recently.

**December 9**

1. Which is became the first Latin American country to partner with Beijing?

Answer : Panama

**Explanation :**

- Xi and Varela signed a score of infrastructure, tourism and development cooperation agreements as **Panama** became the **first Latin American country** to partner with Beijing's giant multi-billion-dollar global investment initiative known as "**Belt and Road Initiative**".
- China established diplomatic relations with Panama last year.

**December 10**

1. Where did held Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of India?

Answer : New York

**Explanation :**

- A conference on the theme '**Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of India – New Paradigm for Stressed Assets**' was held at the Indian Consulate in New York.
- The Finance Minister, **Shri Arun Jaitley** was addressing through Video Conferencing.

2. When did Qatar withdrew its OPEC membership?

Answer : January 1, 2019.

**Explanation :**

- Two day **175<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Companies** (OPEC) Conference & one day **5th OPEC and Non OPEC Ministerial Meeting** concluded in **Vienna, Austria**.
- **Qatar** withdrew its OPEC membership with effect from January 1, 2019.

**December 11**

1. Who is the current UN Secretary General 2019?

Answer : Antonio Guterres

**Explanation :**

- A United Nations Conference **in Moroccan city of Marrakesh** adopted a global **pact “The Global compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration”** to better handle migrant flows despite a string of withdrawals driven by anti-immigrant populism.
- The pact is described as a “Roadmap to prevent suffering and chaos” by UN Secretary General **Antonio Guterres**.

**December 12**

1. Is India a member of Financial Action Task Force?

Answer : Yes (2006)

**Explanation :**

- **Israel** became a full member of the Financial Action Task Force (**FATF**), an international body set up to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other threats to the international financial system.
- The FATF membership will tag Israel as an attractive country for international investment and improve the status of the Israeli financial sector and its ability to operate in the global economy.

2. What is the aim of the Hand-in-Hand exercises?

Answer : Build closer relations between the militaries of India and China

**Explanation :**

- **India and China** began the **7th round of their ‘Hand-in-Hand’ military drills** in the Chinese city of **Chengdu** as part of the focussed efforts by the two militaries to improve ties after last year’s standoff at Doklam.
- The aim of the Hand-in-Hand exercises is to build closer relations between the militaries of India and China.

**December 13**

1. Which country has launched the world's first floating nuclear power station??

Answer : Russia (Academik Lomonosov)

**Explanation :**

- **AkademikLomonosov, the world's first "floating" nuclear power plant (FNPP)** for installation in remote areas, has been started and brought to 10 per cent of its capacity, Russian state-run atomic energy corporation Rosatom announced.

2. How many is in Trans Regional Maritime Network?

Answer : 30

**Explanation :**

- Signed an ascension pact to the **30-member Trans Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN)** at Italian Naval Headquarters in **Rome, Italy**.
- This agreement will give India an access to the information on ships passing through the Indian Ocean Region, that will help in keeping tabs on the security forces.

**December 14**

1. Which is the largest country in GCC?

Answer : Saudi Arabia

**Explanation :**

- The annual **39th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** summit was held in **Riyadh, UAE**. It concluded with the '**Riyadh Declaration**' containing 72 topic covering cooperation and regional affairs of Gulf nations.
- It consisted of participation of GCC member countries **Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Bahrain** except **Qatar**. The **40th** Summit will take place in the UAE.

2. Where did held COP24 conference?

Answer : Katowice, Poland

**Explanation :**

- **The Climate Change Performance Index** was released on the sidelines of **COP24 UN Summit in Katowice, Poland**. U.S. dropped from 56th to 59th place due to high emissions and poor ratings for the federal government's policies.
- **India moves to rank 11** as a result of an improved performance in renewable energy, comparatively low levels of per capita emissions and a relatively ambitious mitigation target for 2030.

**December 15**

1. Which country banned Indian currency above Rs 100?

Answer : Nepal

**Explanation :**

- The **Nepal** government banned Indian currency above **Rs 100**. New Indian note of **Rs 2,000, Rs 500 and Rs 200** denominations were banned as the Nepal government has not yet legalised them in the market.

2. Which parliament has passed a landmark legislation for make abortion legal ?

Answer : Ireland

**Explanation :**

- **Ireland's parliament** has passed a landmark legislation to make abortion legal for the first time in the Catholic-majority country with **66.4%** voting in favour of new legislation to allow for the termination of pregnancies.

**December 16**

1. Which country is the largest supplier of oil to India??

Answer : Iraq and Saudi Arabia

**Explanation :**

- According to Reuters, **Iran dropped two places** to become the **sixth biggest oil supplier** to India in November, after New Delhi cut purchases due to the impact of U.S. sanctions.
- India is restricted to buying 1.25 million tons per month, or about 300,000 barrels per day (bpd). **Iraq and Saudi Arabia** continued to be the top two oil sellers to India.

2. Which Parliament eliminates non-tariff barriers to trade??

Answer : European

**Explanation :**

- The European Parliament approved an accord with Japan that has been dubbed **the world's biggest trade deal, covering economies** that represent a third of global GDP.
- It also moves to eliminate non-tariff barriers to trade.

**December 17**

1. Who announced to set up a National Medical Devices Promotion?

Answer : Suresh Prabhu

**Explanation :**

- Union Minister of **Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation**, Suresh Prabhu announced to set up a **National Medical Devices Promotion Council** under the **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)** in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The President said the **“Year of Tolerance” will be an extension of the “Year of Zayed”**, as it upholds the values of tolerance and coexistence that the late **Sheikh Zayed** established among the people of the UAE.

2. What is the capital city of Israel?

Answer : West Jerusalem

**Explanation :**

- **Australia** became one of the few countries to formally recognize **West Jerusalem** as the capital of **Israel** however it will not move its embassy from Tel Aviv until a peace settlement is reached.

**December 18**

1. What stands for FATF?

Answer : Financial Action Task Force

**Explanation :**

- **India and France** have agreed on deepening their **strategic partnership** through cooperation in the **Indo-Pacific, civil nuclear, defence and security, space, trade and economic sectors**.
- **Paris and New Delhi** are also working together **on multiple international forums including Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**.

**December 19**

1. Who has bilateral White Shipping Agreements with 36 countries?

Answer : India

**Explanation :**

- India has signed an ascension pact to the **30-member Trans Regional Maritime Network** that will give it an access to the information on ships passing through the **Indian Ocean Region**. India already has bilateral **White Shipping Agreements** with 36 countries, they signed the agreement **at Rome** in Italian Naval Headquarters.

**December 20**

1. Who has declared 'Justice' as the 2018 Word of the Year?

Answer : Merriam-Webster

**Explanation :**

- **Merriam-Webster** has declared '**Justice**' as the **2018 Word Of The Year**. As per Merriam-Webster says, the word 'Justice' is used in many phrases like racial justice, social justice and obstruction of justice.

2. Which country top rank in global gender gap report 2018??

Answer : Iceland

**Explanation :**

- **WEF's Global Gender Gap Report 2018** has been released and **India has ranked 108th** in World Economic Forum (WEF) same as the previous year 2017 at 108th. Iceland holds the top spot in the index for the 10th consecutive year.
- Philippines tops in Asia in the World Economic Forum's latest gender equality rating and ranked 8th worldwide.

**December 21**

1. Which two nations that voted against the Global Compact on Refugees?

Answer : United States and Hungary

**Explanation :**

- The **U.N. General Assembly** voted nearly unanimously to adopt a framework to strengthen the international response to the global refugee crisis.
- The **United States and Hungary** were the only two nations that voted against the **Global Compact on Refugees**, while **181** countries voted in favor. The Dominican Republic, Eritrea, and Libya abstained.

2. Where was CEPA held in 2018?

Answer : Seoul, South Korea

**Explanation :**

- The **7th round of India – South Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** negotiations were held in **Seoul, South Korea**.

**December 22**

1. What is the aim of INF Treaty?

Answer : End arms race between USA and USSR during cold

**Explanation :**

- **Russian government** announced **USA's withdrawal from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty**. The treaty aimed **to end arms race between USA and USSR** during cold war and to ensure some strategic stability in Europe.

2. Who has adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration?

Answer : United Nations

**Explanation :**

- The **United Nations** General Assembly adopted the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**, the first-ever negotiated global framework on a common approach to international migration in all its dimensions, in **Marrakesh, Morocco**.

**December 23**

1. Which meeting boosts the people-to-people cooperation?

Answer : India China High-Level Mechanism on Cultural & People-to-people exchanges

**Explanation :**

- **1st meeting of India China High-Level Mechanism on Cultural & People-to-people exchanges** was held in **New Delhi**. It was co-chaired by **EAM Sushma Swaraj** & Chinese State Councilor & FM **Wang Yi**.
- The meeting acknowledging the Wuhan Summit identified **10** areas or pillars for boosting people-to-people cooperation.

2. Which is seventh largest stock market in the world?

Answer : India

**Explanation :**

- **India** achieved another milestone when Indian Stock market overtakes **Germany** for the first time in seven years to become the world's **seventh** largest stock market.
- This move reflects India's positive returns this year as companies dependency on domestic demand enabled them to avoid meltdown in other emerging markets spurred due to **U.S. – China trade war**.

**December 24**

1. Which is Burundi new capital??

Answer : Gitega

**Explanation :**

- **Burundi** confirmed the small central city of **Gitega the country's new political capital**. The previous capital Bujumbura, on the north-eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika, became a country's economic capital.

2. How many country participate in misperception index 2018?

Answer : 38

**Explanation :**

- **Indians** placed at **12th rank in the “misperception index”** according to the MORI Perils of Perception Survey 2018, done by Ipsos India, an independent market research company.
- It behind several countries like, Italy, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, Chile and Argentina, among others.

### December 25

1. Who create world’s smallest tic-tac-toe board?

Answer : California Institute of Technology in the US

#### **Explanation :**

- Scientists have created the **world’s smallest tic-tac-toe board using dynamic DNA origami tiles** microscopic organic structures that can be programmed to transform into predesigned patterns.
- The team from **California Institute of Technology in the US** had earlier used DNA origami to create tiles that could be designed to self-assemble into larger nanostructures that carry predesigned patterns.

### December 26

1. Where did held Follow-up Committee??

Answer : Iran

#### **Explanation :**

- The first meeting of the Follow-up Committee for implementation of the **Trilateral Chabahar Agreement** between **India, Afghanistan and Iran** was held in the port city of **Chabahar in Iran**.
- The meeting was held at the level of Joint Secretary or Director General.

### December 27

1. Who approved licensed use of marijuana and kratom for medical use and research?

Answer : Thailand

#### **Explanation :**

- Thailand approved the licensed use of **marijuana** and **kratom** for medical use and research. It became the first country in Southeast Asia to take such action.

2. IWC stands for

Answer : International Whaling Commission

#### **Explanation :**

- The **Japanese** government officially announced to withdraw from the **International Whaling Commission (IWC)**, enabling Japan to pursue commercial whaling in its adjacent waters, including its **Exclusive Economic Zone**.

### December 28

1. Which is 3rd country to take its medical cannabis from **marijuana**?

Answer : Israel

**Explanation :**

- **Israel's** parliament, **the Knesset**, approved of a law to permit exports of medical **marijuana**. This made Israel the 3rd country after the Netherlands and Canada, to take its medical cannabis global.

2. Who has become the first person to complete a solo trek across Antarctica?

Answer : Colin O'Brady

**Explanation :**

- An American adventurer has become the first person to complete a solo trek across Antarctica without assistance of any kind. **Mr Colin O'Brady**, 33, took 54 days to complete the nearly 1,600km crossing of the frozen continent from north to south.

**December 29**

1. Who will contribute Rs 4,500 crore to Bhutan for the 12th five-year plan?

Answer : India

**Explanation :**

- **India will contribute Rs 4,500 crore to Bhutan for the 12th five-year plan**, announced Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**. The announcement comes during the official three-day visit of Bhutanese Prime Minister **Lotay Tshering**.

2. Which cabinet has approved the issuance of first-ever renminbi-denominated bonds?

Answer : Pakistan

**Explanation :**

- **Pakistan's cabinet** has approved the issuance of **first-ever renminbi-denominated bonds** to raise loans from **China's capital markets**, as the country moved a step forward to give the **Chinese currency** a status at par with the **US dollar**.

**December 30**

1. Which airline took off without a single piece of single-use plastic on board?

Answer : Portuguese airline Hi Fly

**Explanation :**

- **Portuguese airline Hi Fly** decided to bring about a change by introducing **single-use plastic free flight**. The flight took off from Lisbon to Natale, Brazil, without a single piece of single-use plastic on board.

2. Who has adopted two Russian Resolutions on International Information Security?

Answer : UNGA

**Explanation :**

- **The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** has adopted two Russian Resolutions on International Information Security (IIS) and has been backed by India regarding the same. This has been done for achieving democratic, inclusive and transparent UN negotiations process on security in the use of **information and communication technologies**.

**December 31**

1. Which is Turkmenistan first messaging app?

Answer : BizBarde

**Explanation :**

- **Turkmenistan** has launched **its first messaging app BizBarde**. The privately developed BizBarde app will allow the exchange of messages, files, photos and videos, the state Yaslyk television station announced.

2. IRNSS stands for?

Answer : Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System

**Explanation :**

- China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) has started offering global service. It is touted as a rival to America's Global Positioning System (GPS). **Pakistan** has become the first foreign nation to use the **BeiDou system** ending its reliance on GPS.
- The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) named **NAVIC** is a regional satellite navigation system that provides accurate real-time positioning and timing services covering India and a region extending 1,500 km around it.

## SPORTS

### December 1

1. The International Boxing Association (AIBA) announced that it will introduce a which System for coaches and boxers in next year's Men World Championship

Answer : "Protest System"

**Explanation :**

- The **International Boxing Association (AIBA)** announced that it will introduce a **"Protest System"** for coaches and boxers in next year's Men World Championship to be held in Moscow, Russia which will also acts as a qualifier for 2020 Olympic Games.

### December 2

1. Who win 3 gold at the 62nd National Shooting Championships in Thiruvananthapuram?

Answer : Esha Singh

**Explanation :**

- Telangana teenager **Esha Singh** prevailed over big names such as Manu Bhaker and Heena Sidhu to win **3 gold** at the **62nd National Shooting Championships in Thiruvananthapuram**.

2. Who claimed the Junior Boys Singles and doubles gold at the 2018 Portugal Junior and Cadet Open in Guimaraes, Portugal?

Answer : Manav Thakkar

**Explanation :**

- Top-seed **Manav Thakkar** finished the ITTF World Junior Circuit on a high as he claimed the Junior Boys Singles and doubles gold at the **2018 Portugal Junior and**

**Cadet Open in Guimaraes, Portugal.** In what was an all-Indian final, Manav defeated Jeet Chandra in a tough match which went down to the wire.

### December 3

1. Who is the current President of the International Olympic Committee?

Answer : Thomas Bach

**Explanation :**

- The International Olympic Committee IOC has set up an advisory committee on human rights chaired by **Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini**, the former United Nations commissioner for human rights starting in **2024**. President **Thomas Bach** said Saturday at meetings in the Japanese capital that “human rights standards” will be included in Olympic host-city contracts beginning with the **2024 Olympic in Paris**.

2. Who is the President of Wrestling Federation of India?

Answer : Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

**Explanation :**

- The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) rolled out its revolutionary contracts system for Wrestlers. The announcement was made by WFI President **Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh** in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Aditya Nath**, who inaugurated the senior National Championship at Nandini Nagar in Gonda (U.P).

### December 4

1. Commonwealth Senior Fencing Championships, was held in which city?

Answer : Canberra, Australia

**Explanation :**

- **Commonwealth Senior Fencing Championships**, was held in **Canberra, Australia**. India won a total of 3 medals: 2 gold and 1 bronze, in the championship. The medal tally was topped by England with 6 gold, 6 silver and 4 bronze medals.
- **Bhavani Devi** won gold medal in the Senior Women’s Sabre event. She has become the **first Indian** to win a **gold** medal in the **Commonwealth Championship**.

2. Who became the first Indian individual medal winner in an international ultra running event?

Answer : Ullas Narayan

**Explanation :**

- **Ullas Narayan** became the **first Indian individual medal winner** in an **international ultra running** event by winning bronze in the 2018 International Association of Ultra Running (IAU) 24 Hour Asia & Oceania Championships in Taipei, Taiwan.

### December 5

1. Which State’s Maheshwari Chauhan retained her women’s skeet title at the 62nd National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC)?

Answer : Maheshwari Chauhan

**Explanation :**

- **Rajasthan’s Maheshwari Chauhan** retained her women’s skeet title at the **62nd National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC)** for shotgun events.

Maheshwari got the better of Punjab's Ganemat Sekhon. The bronze medal was won by Punjab's Simran Preet Kaur Johal.

### December 6

1. What is YONO app?

Answer : You Only Need One

**Explanation :**

- **State Bank of India** has roped in Asian Games gold medalist **Swapna Barman** as **brand ambassador for its digital app YONO. YONO (You Only Need One)**, the bank's digital platform that makes both lifestyle and banking available through a single app, was launched exactly a year back.
- Swapna won **gold medal in Heptathlon** in Jakarta Asian Games.

### December 7

1. Whose were honoured as IAAF athletes of the year at athletics' annual awards ceremony in Monaco?

Answer : Eliud Kipchoge and Colombian jumper Caterine Ibarguen

**Explanation :**

- **Kenya's marathon world record holder Eliud Kipchoge** and **Colombian jumper Caterine Ibarguen** were honoured as **IAAF athletes of the year** at athletics' annual awards ceremony in Monaco.

2. Which country's leg-spinner Yasir Shah became the fastest bowler in the world?

Answer : Pakistan

**Explanation :**

- Breaking an 82-year-old record, **Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah** became the **fastest bowler in the world** to reach the milestone of scalping **200 Test wickets**.
- Earlier, the record was held by former Australian leg-spinner Clarrie Grimmett who had scalped 200 wickets in 36 Tests. Shah, on the flip side, did the same **in just 33 Test matches**.

### December 8

1. 62nd National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC) for shotgun events in Jaipur which city?

Answer : Jaipur

**Explanation :**

- Rajasthan's **Maheshwari Chauhan** retained her **women's skeet title** at the **62nd National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC)** for **shotgun** events in Jaipur.
- The **bronze medal** was won by **Punjab's Simran Preet Kaur Johal**, who later picked up three gold in other events.

2. Which country won the Ninth edition of International Admiral's Cup Regatta 2018?

Answer : Italy

**Explanation :**

- **Italy** won the Ninth edition of International **Admiral's Cup Regatta 2018** with their consistent performance in all races held in **Ettikulam Beach at Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala**.
- **Singapore** was the runners-up and the defending champion **USA** came on the third spot.

### December 9

1. Who became the fastest bowler in terms of number of Tests played to pick 200 Test wickets?

Answer : Yasir Shah

#### **Explanation :**

- **Yasir Shah** became the **fastest** bowler in terms of number of Tests played to pick **200 Test wickets** in the game's history on Day 4 of the third and final Test against New Zealand in Abu Dhabi.
- Yasir reached the landmark in just **33 Tests** breaking an 82-year-old record held by another leggie, **Clarrie Grimmett** from Australia, who had bagged 200 Test wickets in 36 Tests.

### December 10

1. Which Indian spinner made Shaun Marsh break a 130-year-old Australian batting record?

Answer : Ravichandran Ashwin

#### **Explanation :**

- Indian spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** made **Shaun Marsh break a 130-year-old Australian batting record** after dismissing him for 2 runs on the second day of the first Test.
- Marsh became **the first Australian since 1888** to register single-digit scores in six consecutive Test innings. Marsh had **last hit a Test century in January 2018**.

### December 11

1. Who is the minister of youth affairs and sports in India?

Answer : Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore

#### **Explanation :**

- **Rajyavardhan Rathore**, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs, launched jersey for Khelo India Youth Games and announced that 2nd edition of the national-level competition is moving out of the Capital and will be held in **Pune, Maharashtra** from January 9 – January 20, 2019.

### December 12

1. Khelo India Youth Games-2019 will be held in which city?

Answer : Pune

#### **Explanation :**

- **Khelo India Youth Games-2019** will be held in **Pune** of **Maharashtra** in **January**. **Sports Minister Col Rajyavardhan Rathore** announced that 9000 youth will participate in this edition of the game.

### December 13

1. Who became 'Breakthrough Table Tennis Star' Award?

Answer : ManikaBatra

**Explanation :**

- **ManikaBatra** became the **first ever Indian table tennis player** to be decorated with the '**Breakthrough Table Tennis Star**' award at the prestigious **ITTF Star Awards in Incheon, South Korea.**

### December 14

1. The 115th All India Aga Khan Gold Cup hockey tournament held at which stadium?

Answer : Major Dhyan Chand hockey stadium in New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- **Steel Authority of India's Hockey Academy** beat **Army XI Danapur** to clinch the **115th All India Aga Khan Gold Cup hockey tournament held at Major Dhyan Chand hockey stadium in New Delhi.**
- Aga Khan Gold Cup is one of the oldest hockey tournaments in the country.

### December 15

1. Where did the 21st Usha National Athletics Sports Championship for the Blind hold in?

Answer : New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- The **21st Usha National Athletics** Sports Championship for the Blind held in New Delhi in the presence of champion boxer **Vijender Singh.**
- The championship witnessed six new national records in javelin, long jump, discuss, 100m race and shotput and three new meet records in 100 meet race, javelin and shotput.

### December 16

1. Who have been named as the 2018 International Tennis Federation (ITF) world champions by the governing body of global tennis?

Answer : Novak Djokovic and Simona Halep

**Explanation :**

- **Novak Djokovic and Simona Halep** have been named as the **2018 International Tennis Federation (ITF) world champions** by the governing body of global tennis.
- World number one Djokovic receives the honour from the ITF for the **sixth time**, while it is the first year that **Romania's top-ranked Halep** has been recognized.

### December 17

1. Who becomes first Indian to lift Badminton World Federation World Tour Finals title?

Answer : PV Sindhu

**Explanation :**

- **Ace Indian shuttler P V Sindhu** lifted the prestigious season-ending **World Tour Finals trophy at Guangzhou, China.** The Olympic silver medallist defeated Japan's Nozomi Okuhara 21-19, 21-17 in the summit clash.

- **PV Sindhu becomes first Indian to lift Badminton World Federation World Tour Finals title.**

### **December 18**

1. Who bagged the women's and men's singles titles respectively at the National Squash Championships in New Delhi?

Answer : Joshna Chinappa and Mahesh Mangaonkar

**Explanation :**

- **Joshna Chinappa and Mahesh Mangaonkar** bagged the **women's and men's singles titles** respectively at the **National Squash Championships** in New Delhi. Both of these wins were memorable for the champions for different reasons.

2. Where did Men's Hockey World Cup 2018 hold in?

Answer : Bhubaneswar

**Explanation :**

- **Belgium** **pipped the Netherlands** via a penalty shootout to lift their maiden title of the **Men's Hockey World Cup 2018 at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar.**
- With this victory, Belgium took the gold medal, while the Netherlands settled for silver.

### **December 19**

1. A Tri Services Adventure Expedition to be conducted from which day?

Answer : The Indian Armed Forces

**Explanation :**

- The Indian Armed Forces inaugurated Tri Services Cycling and Trekking Expedition in Sikkim. A Tri Services Adventure Expedition to be conducted from December 17, 2018 to January 05, 2019.
- The expedition was undertaken by a Tri Services team comprising of three Officers, three warrant rank officers and thirteen soldiers from the Army, Navy and Air Force.

### **December 20**

1. 37th Senior National Rowing Championship began in the Army Rowing Node in which city?

Answer : Pune

**Explanation :**

- The **37th Senior National Rowing Championship** began in the Army **Rowing Node in Pune.** Around 500 rowers and coaches from various rowing associations across the country are taking part in the Championship.
- The Rowers for the World Championships-2019 will be selected from this event. World Championship -2019 is the first qualifying Championship for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

### **December 21**

1. Name the new coach of the Indian women's cricket team?

Answer : W V Raman

**Explanation :**

- **W V Raman** has been appointed the **new coach of the Indian women's cricket team.** **Raman is a vastly-experienced coach having been in charge of Tamil Nadu and India U-19 teams in the past.**

- W V Raman will have to now step down as coach of the **Bengal Ranji Trophy team** to take up the India job.

### December 22

1. Who has climbed 3 spots to Number 3 in the latest world badminton rankings?

Answer : PV Sindhu

#### **Explanation :**

- Olympic silver medalist **PV Sindhu** has climbed 3 spots to **Number 3 in the latest world badminton rankings**. She moved up after claiming a win against **Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in last week's BWF World Tour Finals** in Guangzhou, China, for her first title of the year.
- Among other established shuttlers from India, Saina Nehwal remains at the ninth position.

### December 23

1. Which country has first rank in FIFA ranking?

Answer : Belgium

#### **Explanation :**

- Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) released the Global football ranking topped by Belgium who have 1727 points as per FIFA calculations. So Belgium is going to end the year as No. 1 ahead of World Champion France.
- France ranked 2nd with 1726 points and Brazil ranked third with 1676 points. India ranked at 97th Position in the latest FIFA ranking released on 20th December 2018.

### December 24

1. How old is Vedangi Kulkarni, became the fastest Asian to cycle the globe?

Answer : 20

#### **Explanation :**

- Pune woman **Vedangi Kulkarni**, 20, became the **fastest Asian** to cycle the globe. She spent **159** days peddling up to **300 km** a day in **14** countries.
- **British adventurer Jenny Graham**, 38, is the **fastest woman** to have cycled the globe in 124 days in 2018.

### December 25

1. Who won the Club World Cup for third consecutive year?

Answer : Real Madrid

#### **Explanation :**

- **Spain's Real Madrid** won the Club World Cup for a **third consecutive year**, and record **fourth** in total, by beating Abu Dhabi side **Al Ain** in the final.
- Real now hold the record for **most victories** in the competition, which was first held in **2000**, moving one clear of Spanish rivals Barcelona.

### December 26

1. Where did the US Kids Junior Golf World Championship held at?

Answer : Malaysia

**Explanation :**

- India's **Arjun Bhati** bagged the first position against Americas Aksel Moe during the three-level final match in the **US Kids Junior Golf World Championship in Malaysia**.

### December 27

1. What stand for MCG?

Answer : Melbourne Cricket Ground

**Explanation :**

- Former Australia captain **Ricky Ponting** became the **25th** Australian cricketer to be officially inducted into the **International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame** at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

### December 28

1. What was the theme of World's Scholar Cup?

Answer : 'An Entangled World: diplomacy, human relationships, the science of memory, and literature, art'

**Explanation :**

- **India's Aadi Sai Vijaykaran**, an **13 years** old class 8 student from KC High, Chennai created history by **winning the Junior debate championship** at the World's Scholar Cup held at **Yale University, USA**.
- The theme for the cup was '**An Entangled World: diplomacy, human relationships, the science of memory, and literature, art**'.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### December 10

1. Which country launched its Chang'e-4 moon mission to reach the far side of the moon for the first time?

Answer : China

**Explanation :**

- China launched its **Chang'e-4 moon mission** aboard the Long March 3B launch vehicle to reach the far side of the moon for the first time, from **the Xichang Satellite Launch Center** in Sichuan Province in southwestern China.
- Chang'e is the goddess of the moon in Chinese mythology.

### December 11

1. Name the three-stage nuclear capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile successfully test fired by India?

Answer : Agni-5

**Explanation :**

- India successfully test fired the surface-to-surface ballistic missile **Agni-5 from Dr Abdul Kalam** Island in the Bay of Bengal off Odisha coast. This is the seventh trial of

the indigenously-developed surface-to-surface missile, while second one in the last six months.

- Agni-5 is a three stage missile with a length of 17 metre and width of two metre, can carry 1.5 tonnes of nuclear warheads and has a strike range of 5,000 km.

### December 15

1. NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft has found evidence of water on which asteroid?

**Answer :** Bennu

**Explanation :**

- **NASA's (OSIRIS-REx)** spacecraft has found evidence of water on asteroid **Bennu**. Data obtained from the spacecraft's two spectrometers **OSIRIS-REx Thermal Emission Spectrometer (OTES) and OSIRIS-REx Visible and Infrared Spectrometer (OVIRS)** reveal the presence of molecules that contain oxygen and hydrogen atoms bonded together, known as "hydroxyls."

### December 17

1. Who Launched the Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS)?

**Answer :** India

**Explanation :**

- As part of its proposed manned space mission, **India will launch the Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS)** to improve data relay and communication links with its remote sensing/earth observation satellites.
- The two-satellite IDRSS will maintain continuous communication link with India's remote sensing/earth observation satellites and also with the **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III)** that would carry three Indian astronauts to the space in 2022.

### December 18

1. Name the world's oldest plant virus dating back 1,000 years that has been discovered by scientists at an archaeological site in Arizona?

**Answer :** Zea mays chrysovirus 1(ZMCSV1)

**Explanation :**

- **World's oldest plant virus** named 'Zea mays chrysovirus 1(ZMCSV1)' dating back **1,000 years** has been discovered by scientist at a Native American archeological site. The previous oldest dating was found as 750 years.
- This new plant virus has discovered when research team examined ancient plant material from Antelope House, an **Ancestral Puebloan ruin located at Canyon de Chelly National Monument**, Arizona.

### December 19

1. Name the most distant object ever observed in our solar system, that has been discovered by scientists in the United States?

**Answer :** 2018 VG18

**Explanation :**

- The most-distant object ever observed in our solar system known as **2018 VG18** and nicknamed "**Farout**," has been discovered by scientists Sheppard from Carnegie Institution for Science, David Tholen from University of Hawaii, and Chad Trujillo from Northern Arizona University in the US.

- It is the first to be observed at a distance of more than 100 AU (astronomical units) which almost 120AU or 11 billion miles from the sun.

### **December 21**

1. Name the app launched by the Civil aviation ministry and Airport Authority of India (AAI) ahead of Global Aviation Summit?

**Answer :** GAS 2019

**Explanation :**

- The **Civil aviation ministry** along with the **Airport Authority of India** (AAI) launched an app named '**GAS 2019**'. This app will enable users to interact with the co-delegates and speakers besides providing a platform for networking through personal and group chats.
- This was launched ahead of the global aviation summit to be held in Mumbai in January 2019.

### **December 22**

1. Who launched the iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training Programme)?

**Answer :** Dr Jitendra Singh

**Explanation :**

- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr Jitendra Singh launched the iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training Programme) in New Delhi**. These initiatives were launched on the eve of Good Governance Day.
- This initiative aims at "Competent Civil Services for Good Governance".

### **December 23**

1. Which country launched its first communication satellite of the Hongyun project, from a Long March 11 carrier rocket?

**Answer :** China

**Explanation :**

- **China** launched its first communication satellite, from a **Long March 11 carrier rocket**, to provide broadband internet services worldwide to rival Google and other firms.
- It is the first in the **Hongyun project** planned by **China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp (CASIC)**.

### **December 24**

1. India successfully test fired its nuclear capable long range ballistic missile \_\_\_\_\_ with a strike range of 4,000 km, off Odisha coast?

**Answer :** Agni-IV

**Explanation :**

- **India** successfully test-fired its nuclear-capable long-range Inter Continental Ballistic Missile **Agni-IV**, with a strike range of **4,000 km**. The test was part of a user trial by the Army.

- The strategic **surface-to-surface missile** was flight tested from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at **Dr Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha** coast. Agni-IV missile is equipped with advanced Avionics, 5th generation On Board Computer and distributed architecture.

### December 25

1. \_\_\_\_\_ launched the U.S. Air Force's newest 'Global Positioning System (GPS) III' satellite nicknamed "Vespucci," on a Falcon 9 rocket from Florida?

**Answer :** SpaceX

**Explanation :**

- **SpaceX** launched the U.S. Air Force's newest '**GPS III**' satellite on a **Falcon 9** rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, USA. This GPS 3 satellite replaces an aging **GPS 2R** spacecraft launched in 1997.
- The solar-powered spacecraft, dubbed "**Vespucci**," is the company's first official "**National Security Space**" mission. It was competed through the Air Force's Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle program.

### December 26

1. Researchers of which country made the world's smallest tic-tac-toe game board using dynamic DNA microscopic organic structures?

**Answer :** USA

**Explanation :**

- Researchers from California Institute of Technology, **United States of America (USA)** made **world's smallest tic-tac-toe** game board using dynamic DNA microscopic organic structures that can be programmed to transform into predesigned patterns.
- DNA consists of a backbone and four types of molecules known as bases. These bases are adenine, guanine, cytosine, and thymine.

### December 27

1. Name the isolated central Asian country that launched its own and the first messaging app BizBarde in its official language?

**Answer :** Turkmenistan

**Explanation :**

- The isolated central Asian country, **Turkmenistan**, where many of the social media sites including Facebook and Whatsapp are banned, launched its own and the **first** Turkmen messaging app **BizBarde** that will allow the exchange of messages, files, photos and videos.

### December 28

1. Abbreviation for USTAAD?

**Answer :** Undergear Surveillance through Artificial Intelligence Assisted Droid

**Explanation :**

- The mechanical branch of **Central Railway's Nagpur division** has developed a new AI-powered robot named **USTAAD (Undergear Surveillance through Artificial**

**Intelligence Assisted Droid)** which examines parts of the coach in real time with a HD camera and transmits them over WiFi.

### December 29

1. Who tested Russia's S-400 missile air defence system?

**Answer :** China

**Explanation :**

- China successfully tested **Russia's S-400** missile air defence system. China was the first foreign buyer to seal a government-to-government deal with Russia in 2014 to procure the S-400 missile.
- It has a supersonic speed of **3 kilo metre per second**.

### December 30

1. India's total Greenhouse emissions grew by more than \_\_\_\_\_ % between 2010 and 2014, as per official data released by the Government?

**Answer :** 22 per cent

**Explanation :**

- An Official data released by **Government of India** that has to be submitted to the secretariat of the **UN Framework Convention of Climate change** in every 2 years says that India's total Greenhouse emissions grew by more than 22 per cent between 2010 and 2014.
- Carbon dioxide absorption through forests and croplands has also gone up. The energy sector including electricity generation, transport and other fuel combustion activities are the main reason for the above mentioned effect.

### December 31

1. Which country launched Long March-2D rocket?

**Answer :** China

**Explanation :**

- China successfully sent six Yunhai-2 atmospheric environment research satellites and a test communication satellite of Hongyan constellation into orbit. They were launched by a **Long March-2D rocket** from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China.
- The six **Yunhai-2 satellites** will study atmospheric environment, monitor space environment, prevent and reduce disasters and conduct scientific experiments.

## AWARDS

### December 1

1. Name the Indian actor has been awarded at the 12th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA) Brisbane?

**Answer :** Nawazuddin Siddiqui and filmmaker Nandita Das

**Explanation :**

- Indian actor **Nawazuddin Siddiqui** and filmmaker **Nandita Das** have been awarded at the **12th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA) Brisbane**. The awards ceremony was hosted by Australian actress **Sofie Formica** and New Zealand actor **Cliff Curtis**.
- **Nandita Das**, director of the movie herself received the prestigious **International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF) Award** for achievement in film in the Asia Pacific region.

2. Who is the Captain of An Indian Navy Commander?

Answer : Vijay Varma

**Explanation :**

- An Indian Navy Commander (Pilot) **Vijay Varma** and Captain (Pilot) **P Rajkumar** were honoured at the 7th ‘**Asian of The Year**’ awards acknowledging their selfless service and bravery in rescue operations during the devastating floods in Kerala. The winners were announced at the **Straits Times Global Outlook Forum 2019**.

### December 2

1. What stand for ISSF?

Answer : International Shooting Sport Federation

**Explanation :**

- **Abhinav Bindra**, the 2008 Olympic gold medallist was conferred with **shooting’s highest award by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)** at the General Assembly in **Munich**.
- The 36-year-old Bindra had created history during the Beijing Olympics when he became the first Indian individual to clinch a gold medal.

### December 3

1. How many people have been named by Forbes among America’s top 50 female technology moguls, a list titled ‘America’s Top 50 Women in Tech 2018’

Answer : Four Indian-origin women

**Explanation :**

- **Four Indian-origin women** have been named by Forbes among America’s top 50 female technology moguls, a list titled ‘**America’s Top 50 Women in Tech 2018**’ that includes IBM CEO Ginni Rometty and Netflix executive Anne Aaron.
- **Padmasree Warrior**, former chief technology officer (CTO) of **Cisco**; **Komal Mangtani**, senior director at app-based cab aggregator **Uber**; **Neha Narkhede**, chief technology officer and co-founder of streaming platform **Confluent**; and **Kamakshi Sivaramakrishnan**, CEO and founder of identity-management company **Drawbridge**; are in the list.

2. Where did Straits Times Global Outlook Forum 2019 held in?

Answer : Singapore

**Explanation :**

- Commander (Pilot) **Vijay Varma** and Captain (Pilot) **P Rajkumar** were honoured at the ‘**7th Asian of The Year**’ awards acknowledging their selfless service and bravery for their death-defying rescue flying during the floods earlier this year in Kerala.

- The winners were announced at the **Straits Times Global Outlook Forum 2019** held in **Singapore**.

#### **December 4**

1. Name the 3 best performing organizations under MoCA during this Swachhta Pakhwada?  
Answer : Pawan Hans Ltd (PHL), Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA)

**Explanation :**

- Based on the swachhta related activities carried out by all the organizations of MoCA, Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Civil Aviation, declared and awarded **Pawan Hans Ltd (PHL)**, Airports **Authority of India (AAI)** and **Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA)** as the 3 best performing organizations under MoCA during this Swachhta Pakhwada.

#### **December 5**

1. Who received a 'Hero to Animals Award' by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)?

Answer : Hussain

**Explanation :**

- **Hussain** received a '**Hero to Animals Award**' by the **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)** India for saving the lives of humans and animals by banning all forms of manja throughout the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- In July, Hussain called for a complete ban on the sale, production, storage and import of Chinese 'manja', saying these sharp-edged threads not only hurt birds but also children.

2. Who won the Ballon d'Or award?

Answer : Luka Modric

**Explanation :**

- **Luka Modric** won the **Ballon d'Or** award for the first time, ending the 10-year dominance of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. Modric won the Champions League with Real Madrid and then guided Croatia to the World Cup final in July. He was voted player of the tournament.

#### **December 6**

1. Who has received a special honour as a signed Jersey?

Answer : Virat Kohli

**Explanation :**

- The Indian cricket team captain **Virat Kohli** has received a special honour as a **signed Jersey** that he donated after scoring his hundred in the fourth Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) during India's tour of Australia in 2014-15 has been placed **next to Sachin Tendulkar's portrait at the Bradman Museum**.
- The Museum is also known as '**The Home of Cricket Memories**.'

## December 7

1. Which Kannada writer received the Sahitya Academy Award for his novel Anushreni-Yajamanike, for 2018?

Answer : K.G. Nagarajappa

**Explanation :**

- **Centenarian lexicographer G. Venkatasubbaiah** has been chosen for the **Sahitya Akademi's Bhasha Samman for South (2017)**. The award has been given in recognition of his contribution in the field of classical and medieval literature.
- The akademi also announced an award for **Kannada writer K.G. Nagarajappa** for his work on literary criticism, **Anushreni-Yajamanike**, for 2018.

## December 8

1. Nobel Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai has been honoured by which University for her global work promoting girls education?

Answer : Harvard University

**Explanation :**

- Nobel Prize laureate **Malala Yousafzai** has been honoured by **Harvard University** for her global work promoting girls education.
- The 21-year-old received the **2018 Gleitsman Award** from the Centre for Public Leadership at Harvard Kennedy School for her global movement to equip girls with 12 years of free, quality and safe education.

2. Which is the capital city of Hungary?

Answer : Budapest

**Explanation :**

- **The Hungarian capital city of Budapest** was awarded the **IAAF World Athletics Championships in 2023 at the IAAF Council in Monaco** which means the World Championships will return to European soil after a six year hiatus following Doha in 2019 and Eugene in 2021.

## December 9

1. Who has been awarded the Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award (IYBA) 2018?

Answer : Rajanish Giri

**Explanation :**

- An assistant professor from the Indian Institute of Technology-Mandi (IIT-Mandi), **Rajanish Giri** has been awarded the Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award (IYBA) 2018.
- Giri is selected for his proposed innovative idea on **Zika virus** Capsid Folding and inhibitor discovery.

2. Which entity has been conferred the Skoch Award for National Significance at an event held recently in New Delhi?

Answer : Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India

**Explanation :**

- **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**, Government of India has been conferred the **Skoch Award for National Significance** at an event held recently in **New Delhi**.
- The award has been conferred on the Ministry considering its purpose and critical role played in installing about **73 GW renewable energy capacity** in the country.

### December 10

1. Name is the first Mexican queen to have won Miss World 2018?

Answer : Vanessa Ponce de Leon

#### **Explanation :**

- **Vanessa Ponce de Leon of Mexico** was crowned as **Miss World 2018** by outgoing queen Manushi Chhillar in the coastal city of **Sanya, China**.
- She is the **first Mexican queen** to have won the title. Nicolene Limsnukan of Thailand was named first runner-up.

2. Which state's Prathamesh Maulingkar has become the first Indian to win the title of Mister Supranational?

Answer : Goa

#### **Explanation :**

- **Goa's Prathamesh Maulingkar** has become the **first Indian to win the title of Mister Supranational**. The 27-year-old defeated over 30 other contestants from all over the world in the final round to win the 2018 title at the third edition of the gala in **Krynica-Zdroj, Poland**.

### December 11

1. Who became the first Asian/Indian to win 2018 Mister Supernatural title?

Answer : Prathamesh Maulingkar

#### **Explanation :**

- **Prathamesh Maulingkar** from Goa, dubbed as Mr. India, became the **first Asian/Indian** to win **2018 Mister Supernatural** title after contesting 37 candidates in the 3rd edition of the competition held in **Krynica-Zdroj, Poland**.

2. Who was conferred the Steel Users Federation of India (SUFI) Lifetime Achievement Award for his association and contribution to the industry?

Answer : Ratan N. Tata

#### **Explanation :**

- **Eminent industrialist Ratan N. Tata** was conferred the **Steel Users Federation of India (SUFI) Lifetime Achievement Award** for his association and contribution to the industry.

### December 12

1. Who became the first-ever recipient of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Coach of the Year Award?

Answer : Sascha Bajin

#### **Explanation :**

- **Sascha Bajin**, coach of the world number five **Naomi Osaka**, became the **first-ever** recipient of the **Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Coach of the Year Award**.

2. Who honoured with 'Meethoileima' title by Manipur government?

Answer : MC Mary Kom

**Explanation :**

- Manipur Government honored **AIBA World Women Boxing Gold medalist MC Mary Kom** with the title "**Meethoileima**" (par excellent queen) at a function in **Imphal, Manipur**.

### December 13

1. What stand for UNFCCC?

Answer : United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

**Explanation :**

- India's **Gujarat** got a **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** award for women's leadership with low cost and sustainable technology to tackle storms.

2. Who has been named Time magazine's "Person of the Year"?

Answer : Jamal Khashoggi

**Explanation :**

- Saudi journalist **Jamal Khashoggi**, who was murdered in October at his country's Istanbul consulate, has been named **Time magazine's "Person of the Year"** alongside several other journalists.
- The magazine has also honoured Philippine journalist **Maria Ressa**, Reuters reporters **Wa Lone and KyawSoeOo**, currently imprisoned in Myanmar among others.

### December 14

1. Where did UN Climate Change Conference (COP 24) hold at?

Answer : Katowice, Poland

**Explanation :**

- The **United Nations (UN)** has honoured an **Uttar Pradesh** based startup company '**Help Us Green**, is one of **15** ground-breaking projects from around the world that has won this year's **UN Climate Action Award** at a special ceremony at the **UN Climate Change Conference (COP 24)** in **Katowice, Poland**.

### December 15

1. Who has become the first English author to be honoured with the Jnanpith award?

Answer : Amitav Ghosh

**Explanation :**

- **Noted English author Amitav Ghosh** has been honoured with **Jnanpith Award for 2018**, an award for outstanding contribution to literature. He has become the **first English author to be honoured with the award**.
- Ghosh, one of the most prominent contemporary Indian writers, is known for a series of novels such as "**Shadow Lines**", "**The Glass Palace**", "**The Hungry Tide**", and Ibis Trilogy — "**Sea of Poppies**", and "**River of Smoke**".

### December 16

1. A minor boy from which city has been selected for the National Bravery Award?

Answer : Odisha's Kendrapara district

**Explanation :**

- A minor boy from a far-flung village in Odisha's Kendrapara district has been selected for the **National Bravery Award** for exhibiting exemplary courage in saving his paternal uncle from a crocodile attack.
- **Situ Malik** (15), a class 10 student in government-run Basudebpur Vidyapitha high school in Kandira village, will receive the coveted award, instituted by **Indian Council for Child Welfare**, from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 23, 2019.

**December 17**

1. Who has been crowned as Miss India World wide 2018?

Answer : Indian-American Shree Saini

**Explanation :**

- **Indian-American Shree Saini** has been crowned Miss India Worldwide 2018 at 27th annual global pageant held in the Fords City of **New Jersey**. It is Organised by the New York-based India Festival Committee (IFC).
- **Sakshi Sinha** from Australia was declared as the first runner up.

2. Who was honoured with the French Knight of the National Order of Merit for his contribution to the world of cinema and Indo-French film industry?

Answer : Producer Ashok Amritraj

**Explanation :**

- **Producer Ashok Amritraj** was honoured with the French Knight of the National Order of Merit for his contribution to the world of cinema and Indo-French film industry.

**December 18**

1. Miss Universe 2018 was held at which city?

Answer : Thailand

**Explanation :**

- Miss Universe 2018 was held at **Muang Thong Thani, Pak Kret, Thailand**. The 24-year-old Filipino-Australian beauty **Catriona Elisa Gray from Philippines** bagged Miss Universe 2018 title.
- Tamaryn Green, a medical student from South Africa became first runner up and Sthefany Guterrez from Venezuela studying to be a lawyer became second runner-up.

**December 19**

1. Who is PETA's person of the year?

Answer : Sonam Kapoor

**Explanation :**

- **Actress Sonam Kapoor**, a vegan, has been named **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India's Person of the Year for 2018**.

2. Which government police has entered the Limca Book of Records by training over two lakh women and girls under their self-defence programme in 2017?

Answer : Delhi

**Explanation :**

- **Delhi Police** has entered the **Limca Book of Records** by training over two lakh women and girls **under their self-defence programme in 2017**.

### December 20

1. For whom posthumously, United Nations Human Rights Prize for 2018, was awarded?  
Answer : Asma Jahangir (Pakistan's iconic human rights activist and lawyer)

#### **Explanation :**

- **United Nations Human Rights Prize for 2018**, was posthumously awarded to **Pakistan's** iconic human rights activist and lawyer **Asma Jahangir**, the award was received by her daughter, **Munizae**, at an impressive ceremony in the General Assembly hall of United Nations in New York.

### December 21

1. Who have been named the 2018 ITF World Champions announced by ITF?  
Answer : Serbia's Novak Djokovic and Romania's Simona Halep

#### **Explanation :**

- **The International Tennis Federation (ITF)** announced that **Serbia's Novak Djokovic and Romania's Simona Halep** have been named the **2018 ITF World Champions**.
- Djokovic receives the honour for the sixth time, while it is the first year Halep has been recognised.

### December 24

1. By whom the South Indian Education Society (SIES) Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati National Eminence Award was received?  
Answer : Vanessa Ponce de Leon

#### **Explanation :**

- Former Prime Minister **Dr Manmohan Singh** received **South Indian Education Society (SIES) Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati National Eminence Award** as part of the Kanchi Mahaswami festival. He was awarded for his contribution to the field of public leadership.

### December 26

1. Which are the top three police stations in India, in 2018?  
Answer : Kalu (Bikaner, Rajasthan), Campbell Bay (Andaman & Nicobar Islands) and Farakka (Murshidabad, West Bengal)

#### **Explanation :**

- **Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh** released the list of top 10 performing police stations across the nation. The list was announced in the **3-day Inaugural Session of the DGPs or IGP's Conference in Gujarat**.
- The top three police stations in India for 2018 are **Kalu (Bikaner, Rajasthan), Campbell Bay (Andaman & Nicobar Islands) and Farakka (Murshidabad, West Bengal)**.

## December 27

1. Who is the captain of the Indian women's cricket team?

Answer : Mithali Raj

**Explanation :**

- **Mithali Raj**, captain of the **Indian women's cricket team** and the official ambassador for **Rio Tinto's Australian Diamonds programme**, was honored with the **Senco Gold & Diamonds, Swarna Samman award** at a star-studded event held in Kolkata.

2. Who is the Secretary of DIPP?

Answer : Ramesh Abhishek

**Explanation :**

- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (**DIPP**) organized a Swachh Bharat Grand Challenge as a part of the **Swachhta Pakhwada** held from 1st to 15th November 2018 to reward innovative solutions by DIPP recognized Start-ups in the country.
- The awards were given away by Secretary DIPP, **Ramesh Abhishek** in New Delhi.

## December 28

1. Where did Mrs. India My Identity Beauty Pageant 2018 finale held in?

Answer : New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- **Divya Patidar Joshi** from **Madhya Pradesh** was crowned with the **Mrs. India 2018** title at the **Mrs. India My Identity Beauty Pageant 2018 finale** held in **New Delhi**.
- With this win, in the year **2019**, she would be representing India for **Mrs. Universe** title.

2. Who was conferred the "Champions of Change"?

Answer : Vanessa Ponce de Leon

**Explanation :**

- Manipur Chief Minister **N Biren Singh** was conferred the "**Champions of Change**" award by Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** for exemplary leadership in bringing about transformation in governance.
- **The award was instituted by the Centre** to identify remarkable progress made in **115 "aspirational" districts** whose development is being monitored by **NITI Aayog**.

## December 29

1. "Balkan Athlete of the year" award was conferred to whom?

Answer : Luka Modric

**Explanation :**

- Croatia's captain and Spanish club Real Madrid's midfielder **Luka Modric** was named the **Balkan Athlete of the year** beating Men's tennis world number one player **Novak Djokovic**. The poll to name Balkan Athlete of the year was organized by the **Bulgarian News Agency (BTA)**.
- Modric had also won the prestigious men's **Ballon d'Or award** for the first time in December 2018.

## December 30

1. Which Institute entered Guinness Book of World Records ‘for organising the largest men’s Health Awareness programme on prostate cancer on a single day’?

Answer : MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Centre

**Explanation :**

- **Telangana’s MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Centre** entered **Guinness Book of World Records ‘for organising the largest men’s Health Awareness programme on prostate cancer on a single day.’**
- This is the **first** Guinness World Records achievement for the state government in the field of **medicine**.

2. Device to detect the actual pain level of a patient during a diagnosis was designed by whom?

Answer : Mahum Siddiqi

**Explanation :**

- **An Indian-American teenager** has won the inaugural **“Digital Transformation Hackathon”** at **Cornell University** for designing a device to detect the actual pain level of a patient during a diagnosis.
- The device designed by 17-year-old **Mahum Siddiqi** and her team uses neurological activity occurring in one’s brain to help doctors more efficiently determine someone’s pain levels.

**December 31**

1. SwachhSurveksahan 2018 award for Best Capital City in the Solid Waste Management was conferred to which city?

Answer : Hyderabad

**Explanation :**

- SwachhSurveksahan 2018 award for Best Capital City in the Solid Waste Management was conferred to Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).
- It also ranked **27th** in the list of **4041** cities in the SwachhSurveksahan Rankings.

2. Which is the India’s highest peacetime gallantry medal?

Answer : “Ashok Chakra”

**Explanation :**

- The **Keonjhar Police, Odisha**, in collaboration with **India Post** has issued 10 postage stamps, each featuring the **Ashok Chakra** Awardees from **Police Department** (State Police and Central police) across the country, under the **“My Stamp”** scheme.
- “Ashok Chakra”, which is India’s highest peacetime gallantry medal with **84** awardees till date is equivalent to **“Param-Veer Chakra”**.

**APPOINTMENT**

**December 1**

1. Who is the first woman president of Georgia?

Answer : Hyderabad

**Explanation :**

- **Georgia** has elected ruling party candidate **Salome Zurbishvili** as its **first woman president**. The election was seen as a test of Georgia's democratic credentials as the Caucasus nation seeks **European Union and NATO membership**.
- Zurbishvili had 59% of the vote and her opposition Grigol Vashadze 40%, with nearly all ballots counted.

### December 2

1. Who has become the first Indian to be elected one of the four vice-presidents of the International Shooting Sport Federation?

Answer : Hyderabad

#### **Explanation :**

- **Raninder Singh** has become the **first Indian** to be elected one of the four **vice-presidents of the International Shooting Sport Federation**. The 51-year-old Raninder also heads the **National Rifle Association of India**. He was presented with the diploma and medal by the outgoing longest serving president of the ISSF, **Olegario Vazquez Rana**.

### December 3

1. Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is the President of which country?

Answer : Mexico

#### **Explanation :**

- With promises of uprooting corruption, poverty and violence in the country, **Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador** was sworn in as the **President of Mexico** for a term of six years.
- Holding the majority in Congress, Obrador would now enjoy the confidence of at least 56 per cent approval ratings, as compared to his predecessor, Enrique Pena Nieto.

2. What stand for NGT?

Answer : National Green Tribunal

#### **Explanation :**

- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has appointed former Uttarakhand High Court judge, **Justice U C Dhyani**, as head of the three-member committee to oversee rejuvenation work of the Ganga River. It also directed few measures to be adopted by enforcing agencies for cleaning of the river.

### December 4

1. Which entity announced that A S Rajeev has joined the lender as its Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer?

Answer : Bank of Maharashtra

#### **Explanation :**

- State-owned **Bank of Maharashtra** announced that **A S Rajeev** has joined the lender as its **Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer**. Prior to this, he was Executive Director of Indian Bank.
- Rajeev is having about three decades of professional experience in three Banks – Syndicate Bank, Vijaya Bank and Indian Bank.

2. Who is the new Finance Secretary of India?

Answer : Ajay Narayan Jha

**Explanation :**

- Expenditure Secretary **Ajay Narayan Jha** was appointed the new **Finance Secretary**. Jha, a 1982-batch IAS officer of Manipur Tripura cadre, succeeds Hasmukh Adhia who retired on November 30. The seniormost secretary in the Finance Ministry is normally designated as the Finance Secretary.
- His appointment was cleared by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

**December 5**

1. Jon Ridgeon is the new CEO of which entity?

Answer : IAAF

**Explanation :**

- **The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)** announced the appointment of Jon Ridgeon as its new CEO following approval by the IAAF Council on the first day of its 215th Council Meeting in Monaco. Ridgeon will take up the new role in March 2019.

2. Who is the Chairperson of APTEL?

Answer : Mrs. Justice Manjula Chellur

**Explanation :**

- **Shri Ravindra Kumar Verma** has assumed the charge as **Technical Member in the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL)**, Ministry of Power for a period of 03 years. Hon'ble **Mrs. Justice Manjula Chellur**, Chairperson, APTEL administered the Oath of Office and Secrecy to Shri Ravindra Kumar Verma.

**December 7**

1. What stand for CESC?

Answer : Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

**Explanation :**

- Former senior Indian diplomat **Preeti Saran** has been elected to the **Asia Pacific** seat on the **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)** of the UN for 4 years. The appointment would be effective from **January 1, 2019** and she would replace 3 time elected former Indian diplomat, **Chandrashekhar Dasgupta**.
- CESC was set up in 1985 by the ECOSOC to monitor on its behalf the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which has been ratified by **169** countries.

2. Who will be appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of New India Assurance (NIA)?

Answer : Atul Sahai

**Explanation :**

- **The Government** announced that **Atul Sahai** will be appointed as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of New India Assurance (NIA)** for a five year period.

- The post has been vacant since July 2018 after former CMD G Srinivasan retired.

### December 8

1. Who has been appointed to head South Africa's prosecuting authority?

Answer : Indian-origin lawyer Shamila Batohi

**Explanation :**

- Prominent **Indian-origin lawyer Shamila Batohi** has been appointed to head **South Africa's prosecuting authority, the first woman to head the agency** facing criticism for its handling of the investigations against former president Jacob Zuma over corruption charges.
  - Batohi will start her new role as the **National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP)** in February 2019.
2. Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian as the new Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) for a term of three years which entity?  
Answer : Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)  
**Explanation :**
    - The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** approved the appointment of **Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian** as the new **Chief Economic Advisor (CEA)** for a term of three years.
    - This comes nearly six months after former CEA Arvind Subramanian stepped down from the post.

### December 9

1. Who is United States ambassador to the United Nations?

Answer : Heather Nauert

**Explanation :**

- President Donald Trump has announced that State Department spokeswoman and former Fox TV news anchor **Heather Nauert** to be appointed as the **United States ambassador to the United Nations**.
- Current envoy **Nikki Haley** announced in October she would be leaving the UN post at the end of the year.

### December 11

1. In SWIFT India Domestic Services, SWIFT stand for?

Answer : Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication

**Explanation :**

- **SWIFT India** Domestic Services, the local unit of **SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication)** global that facilitates international payments functions for banks, has appointed **Arundhati Bhattacharya**, former chairman of State Bank of India, as its chairman.

### December 12

1. Who is the 25th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India?

Answer : Shaktikanta Das

**Explanation :**

- The government has appointed **Shaktikanta Das** as the new **RBI governor**, a day after **Urjit Patel resigned** as RBI Governor. He is the **25th Governor** of the Reserve Bank of India.
- He is currently a member of the **Finance Commission of India**, and the government's representative at the **Group of 20 summits**.

**December 13**

1. Who became the Vice-Chair person of the UN Panel of Auditors for a term of 2 years ending on June 30, 2020?

Answer : Rajiv Mehrishi

**Explanation :**

- **Comptroller and Auditor General Rajiv Mehrishi** became the **Vice-Chair person** of the **UN Panel of Auditors** for a term of 2 years ending on **June 30, 2020**. The decision was taken in the panel's annual meeting in **New York** which was held from 3 to 4 December 2018.
- Presently, the panel consists of 11 countries — India, Germany, Chile, Canada, France, Italy, Philippines, Ghana, Indonesia, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

**December 14**

1. Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) president K Chandrasekhar Rao took oath as the Chief Minister of which state?

Answer : Telangana

**Explanation :**

- **Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) president K Chandrasekhar Rao** took oath as the **Chief Minister of Telangana**. It will be his **second** inning as the state chief minister. Governor ESL Narasimhan administered him the oath of office and secrecy at the Raj Bhavan.

2. Mizoram Governor Kummanam Rajasekharan invited whom to form the government?

Answer : Mizo National Front (MNF) president Zoramthanga

**Explanation :**

- **Mizoram** Governor Kummanam Rajasekharan invited **Mizo National Front (MNF) president Zoramthanga** to form the government.

**December 15**

1. What stand for NCST?

Answer : National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

**Explanation :**

- **Ashok Kumar Singh**, Lok Sabha Secretariat Service, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat has assumed charge as **Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)**.
- The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was established by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution through the Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003.

2. Who is the new president of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)?

Answer : Brijendra Pal Singh

**Explanation :**

- **Producer-director Brijendra Pal Singh** was appointed as the **new president of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)** and chairman of the institute's governing council by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

**December 16**

1. Name the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Guinea?

Answer : T.C. Barupal

**Explanation :**

- **T.C. Barupal** was appointed the next Ambassador of **India** to the **Republic of Guinea**. He is presently **Consul General of India, Zanzibar**.

2. Former international spinner Ashley Giles has been appointed as the new managing director of which cricket team?

Answer : England men's cricket

**Explanation :**

- Former international spinner **Ashley Giles** has been appointed as the new managing director of **England men's cricket**.
- Giles, currently sport director at **Warwickshire County Cricket Club**, replaces **Andrew Strauss** who stepped down in October.

**December 17**

1. Which country's ousted Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn into office again, two months after being removed by the President Maithripala Sirisena?

Answer : Sri Lanka

**Explanation :**

- Sri Lanka's ousted Prime Minister **Ranil Wickremesinghe** was sworn into office again, two months after being removed by the President **Maithripala Sirisena**, thus bringing an end to weeks-long political crisis in the country.

**December 18**

1. Who were took oath as the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan?

Answer : Shaktikanta Das & Sachin Pilot

**Explanation :**

- **Ashok Gehlot** took oath as the Rajasthan **Chief Minister** whereas **Sachin Pilot** took oath as the **Deputy Chief Minister** after the successful lead in 2018 Rajasthan Legislative Assembly election.

2. Bhupesh Baghel Sworn is the third Chief Minister of which state?

Answer : Chhattisgarh

**Explanation :**

- **Bhupesh Baghel Sworn** in as third Chief Minister of **Chhattisgarh**, at an indoor stadium Raipur, Capital of Chhattisgarh. The Swearing in Ceremony is administered by Governor **Anandiben Patel**.

**December 19**

1. Who was the first woman ASG?  
Answer : Senior lawyer Indira Jaising

**Explanation :**

- The central government has appointed advocate Madhavi Goradia Divan as additional solicitor general (ASG) in the Supreme Court. She is the third woman to be appointed as ASG in the apex court.
- Senior lawyer Indira Jaising was the first woman ASG.

2. What stand for CBIC?  
Answer : Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

**Explanation :**

- Senior bureaucrat **Pranab Kumar Das** has been appointed as **Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**, the apex policy-making body for indirect taxes.

**December 20**

1. Who is the interim chief as well as Additional Director of Central Bureau of Investigation?  
Answer : M Nageswara Rao

**Explanation :**

- **The interim chief of Central Bureau Investigation (CBI) M Nageswara Rao** was promoted to the rank of an **Additional Director** by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**.

2. Name the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Djibouti?  
Answer : Ashok Kumar

**Explanation :**

- **Ashok Kumar** was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the **Republic of Djibouti**. He is presently **Joint Secretary** in the Ministry of External Affairs.

3. Name the the next Ambassador of India to Mongolia?  
Answer : Mohinder Pratap Singh

**Explanation :**

- Mohinder Pratap Singh was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to **Mongolia**. He is presently Director at Headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs.

**December 21**

1. Name the the next Ambassador of India to the United States?  
Answer : Harsh Vardhan Shringla

**Explanation :**

- Seasoned diplomat **Harsh Vardhan Shringla** was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the United States. He is now serving as Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh. He **replaced Navtej sarna**.

**December 22**

1. What stand for SAFF?  
Answer : South Asian Fencing Federation

**Explanation :**

- Indian Olympic Association (IOA) Secretary General, **Rajeev Mehta** has been elected the President of South Asian Fencing Body for a period of four years after the meeting of **South Asian Fencing Federation (SAFF)** at Hyderabad.

**December 24**

1. Who is the president of Fencing Association of India?  
Answer : Rajeev Mehta

**Explanation :**

- **Fencing Association of India (FAI) president Rajeev Mehta** has been made the head of the South Asian body for a four-year term. FAI secretary general Bashir Ahmed Khan will also hold a similar post at the **South Asian Fencing Federation**.

**December 25**

1. Name the president of United States?  
Answer : Donald Trump

**Explanation :**

- United States President **Donald Trump** announced through a tweet that Defence Secretary **Jim Mattis** will be replaced by his deputy **Patrick Shanahan** as acting Pentagon chief on **January 1, 2019** the date which is two months earlier than planned.

**December 26**

1. Who has been elected as the president of the Archery Association of India?  
Answer : BVP Rao

**Explanation :**

- **BVP Rao** has been elected as the **president** of the **Archery Association of India** in the polls held under a High Court-appointed administrator.
- Rao, who represented Archery Association of **Assam**, beat Rupak Debroy of **Tripura** at the elections held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in **New Delhi**.

**December 27**

1. Who has taken over as India's chief boxing coach?  
Answer : C A Kuttappa

**Explanation :**

- Dronacharya awardee **C A Kuttappa** has taken over as **India's chief boxing coach**. The 39-year-old Kuttappa, credited with shaping some of the country's most successful boxers such as Vijender Singh, M Suranjoy Singh and Shiva Thapa among others, took over from veteran coach S R Singh.

**December 28**

1. Who appointed Justice Chagari Praveen Kumar as the fresh acting Chief Justice of Andhra High Court?

Answer : Honorable President Ram Nath Kovind

**Explanation :**

- Honorable **President Ram Nath Kovind** appointed **Justice Chagari Praveen Kumar** as the fresh **acting Chief Justice of Andhra High Court**. He would assume the charge on **January 01, 2019**.
- Under the **provisions of Article 223 of the Constitution of India**, President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Justice Chagari Praveen Kumar, in order to discharge the designated duties of the office of Chief Justice of Andhra High Court.

**December 31**

1. Who is the ambassador of the India to the Republic of Cote d' Ivoire?

Answer : Mr.Y.K. SailasThangal

**Explanation :**

- Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India announced that **Mr. Y.K. SailasThangal** who is the ambassador of the India to the **Republic of Cote d' Ivoire** has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the **Republic of Liberia** with residence in Abidjan.

**IMPORANT DAYS**

**December 1**

1. Which day was observed as the Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare?

Answer : 30 November

**Explanation :**

- **Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare – 30 November**
- **Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare** was observed all over the world. This day offers an opportunity to pay tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, and to reaffirm the commitment of Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to eliminate the threat of chemical weapons.
- This day also promotes the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism.

**December 2**

1. What is the theme of World AIDS Day?

Answer : “Know Your Status”

**Explanation :**

- **World AIDS Day- December 1**
- **World AIDS Day** is observed on **December 1** every year. The day is dedicated to spreading awareness about the **Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)** which is spread by infection from a virus called **human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)**.
- The day is marked by the World Health Organisation as a global public health campaign. The **theme** of this year is **“Know Your Status”**.

**December 3**

1. When was International Day for Abolition of Slavery celebrated first?

Answer : December 2, 1986

**Explanation :**

- **International Day for Abolition of Slavery – December 2**
- The International Day for Abolition of Slavery will be marked on December 2 every year and December 2, 2018 is marking the **32nd anti-slavery day**. The day marks the 1949 adoption of the UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.
- This day was first celebrated by the United Nations General Assembly **on 2 December, 1986**. It aims to end slavery which includes sexual exploitation, forced marriage, trafficking of persons and recruitment of child labour.

#### **December 4**

1. What is the theme of World AIDS Day International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>?

Answer : “Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”

**Explanation :**

- **International Day Of Persons With Disabilities: 3 December**
- **International Day of Persons with Disabilities** celebrated on December 3rd every year, is an international observance promoted by the United Nations since 1992. It has been observed with varying degrees of success around the planet.
- Theme: “**Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality**”.

#### **December 5**

1. Navy day is observed on which day?

Answer : 4th of December

**Explanation :**

- **Indian Navy Day- 4th of December**
- **Navy day is observed on 4th of December** every year to celebrate the achievements and role of the naval force in protecting and guarding the the country. Navy Day is celebrated in memory of the strength and bravery of the Indian Navy who won the Indo-Pak war in 1971.
- The theme for this year is ‘**Indian Navy, Mission-deployed and Combat-ready.**’

#### **December 8**

1. What is the current theme for International Civil Aviation Day?

Answer : “Working Together to Ensure No Country is Left behind”

**Explanation :**

- **International Civil Aviation Day - December 7**
- **International Civil Aviation Day** is annually observed **December 7** to raise awareness of the importance of international civil aviation and the role that the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** plays in international air transport.
- The current **theme** for International Civil Aviation Day is “**Working Together to Ensure No Country is Left behind,**”.

## December 9

1. Since 1949, 07 December is observed as which day?

Answer : Armed Forces Flag Day

### **Explanation :**

- **Armed Forces Flag Day: 07 December**
- Since **1949, 07 December** is observed as **Armed Forces Flag Day** throughout India to honour the martyrs as well as men and women in uniform, who valiantly fight on our borders to safeguard the country's honour.
- The '**Armed forces Flag Day Fund**' (**AFFDF**) has been constituted by the Government of India for the welfare and rehabilitation of the **Ex-Servicemen (ESM)** community.

## December 11

1. What is the main objective of Human Rights Day observed on 10<sup>th</sup> December?

Answer : "Stand Up For Human Rights"

### **Explanation :**

- **Human Rights Day- 10th December**
- **Human Rights Day** is commemorated every year all over the world on 10 December. It was first announced to be celebrated every year by the **United Nations General Assembly** on 10th of December in the year 1948.
- This year it will be the 70th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This year the Human Rights Day would be celebrated with the **theme "Stand Up For Human Rights"**.

## December 12

1. December 11 is observed as International Mountain Day. It is celebrated by which organisation?

Answer : Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

### **Explanation :**

- **International Mountain Day observed on December 11**
- **December 11** is observed as **International Mountain Day**. It is celebrated by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to spread awareness about the contribution of mountains in the biodiversity as it consists of approximately a quarter of the terrestrial biological diversity.
- Theme for the 2018 edition of the International Mountain Day is: "**#MountainsMatter**".

## December 13

1. Where is the headquarter of UNICEF situated?

Answer : New York

### **Explanation :**

- **UNICEF Day 2018 – 11 December 2018**
- On **11th December 2018**, UNICEF (United Nations International Children Emergency Fund) Headquartered in New York celebrated its 71st foundation day.
- On 11 December 1946, UNICEF was created by United Nations General Assembly to provide long-standing charitable and developmental support to children and mothers in evolving countries.

## December 14

1. Which entity declaring 12, December as the International Day of Neutrality?

Answer : The UN General Assembly

### **Explanation :**

- **International Day of Neutrality - 12th December**
- **The UN General Assembly** adopted a resolution on 2 February 2017, declaring **12 December as the International Day of Neutrality**. The resolution was **introduced by Turkmenistan**, recognized by the world body as a permanently neutral state since 12 December 1995.

## December 15

1. What is the objective to celebrate the National Energy Conservation Day?

Answer : To drive mass awareness about the importance of energy efficiency and conservation.30 November

### **Explanation :**

- **National Energy Conservation Day 2018-December 14**
- **National Energy Conservation Day 2018** was celebrated throughout the country under the aegis of the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**, under Ministry of Power.
- The objective to celebrate the National Energy Conservation Day is to drive mass awareness about the importance of energy efficiency and conservation.

## December 16

1. Which organization has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China Tea Marketing Association (CTMA)?

Answer : Indian Tea Association

### **Explanation :**

- **International Tea day-15th December**
- **International Tea Day** aimed to draw global attention of governments and citizens to the impact of global tea trade on workers and growers was observed in Tea Producing countries.
- **Indian Tea Association (ITA)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **China Tea Marketing Association (CTMA)** in a meeting held in Kolkata between **Vivek Goenka**, Chairman ITA and Wang Qing, President CTMA.

## December 17

1. Why December 16 celebrated as Vijay Diwas?

Answer : To commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in 1971 war

### **Explanation :**

- **Vijay Diwas-December 16**
- The nation celebrated **Vijay Diwas** to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in 1971 war – the war for the Independence of Bangladesh from Pakistan.
- A 72-member delegation of war veterans and **Mukti Jodhas**, led by parliamentarian **Ms. Quazi Rosy** from Bangladesh are taking part in Vijay Diwas celebrations.

## December 19

1. What is the theme of International Migrants Day, 2018?

Answer : “Migration with Dignity”

### **Explanation :**

- **International Migrants Day – December 18**
- International Migrants Day is observed on 18th December every year in many countries. Each year the UN invites governments, organizations, and individuals to observe International Migrants Day by distributing information on the human rights and migrants’ fundamental freedoms.
- **“2018 Theme : Migration with Dignity”**

## December 20

1. Goa Liberation Day programme was held in which place?

Answer : Panaji

### **Explanation :**

- **Goa celebrated 57th Liberation Day**
- On December 19, 2018, **57th Goa Liberation Day** was celebrated. Goa Liberation Day programme was held in **Panaji** in North Goa.
- Goa was liberated on 19th December 1961, from around 450 years of Portuguese rule. In 1987 Goa was separated from Daman and Diu and made a full-fledged state.

## December 21

1. The United Nations’ International Human Solidarity Day is observed every year on which day?

Answer : December 20

### **Explanation :**

- **International Human Solidarity Day- December 20**
- The United Nations’ **International Human Solidarity Day** is observed every year on **December 20** to celebrate unity in diversity. The day reminds people on the importance of solidarity in working towards eradicating poverty.
- Its purpose is to eradicate poverty and promote human and social development in developing countries, in particular among the poorest segments of their populations.

## December 22

1. Winter Solstice 2018 and Summer Solstice 2018 Occurred on which day?

Answer : December 21

### **Explanation :**

- **Winter Solstice 2018 and Summer Solstice 2018 Occurred on December 21.**
- Winter Solstice which is the **shortest day** of the year was observed in the Northern Hemisphere whereas the Summer Solstice which is the **Longest Day** of the year was observed in the Southern Hemisphere.
- The Summer and Winter Solstices are caused as a result of the tilt of the Earth and its elliptical path around the sun.

- On this day, celebrations and festivals are held in different countries on the occasion of solstice

### **December 23**

1. What is the number 1729?

Answer : Hardy-Ramanujan Number

**Explanation :**

- **National Mathematics Day – December 22**
- India celebrated National Mathematics day honouring the **131st** birth anniversary of Great Indian Mathematician **Srinivasan Ramanujan**. India celebrate 22nd December as National Mathematics day every year.
- The **Number 1729** is known as **Hardy-Ramanujan Number**.

### **December 25**

1. 23<sup>rd</sup> December observed as National farmer's day as well as \_\_\_\_\_?

Answer : KisanDiwas

**Explanation :**

- **National farmers' day on 23rd December**
- **National Farmer's Day (NFD)** was celebrated throughout the country to acknowledge the role of farmers in India's socio-economic development and to mark the birth anniversary of Indian farmer's leader and 5th Prime Minister of India **Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh**.
- This day which is also observed as **KisanDiwas** is celebrated across the nation every year with the focus on the upliftment of the status of farmers.

### **December 26**

1. What is the theme of National Consumer Day observed on 24<sup>th</sup> December?

Answer : "Timely Disposal of Consumer Complaints"

**Explanation :**

- **National Consumer Day: 24th December**
- Every Year **24th December** is observed as **National Consumer Day** with a specific theme in India. This year the National Consumer Day is celebrated with the theme "**Timely Disposal of Consumer Complaints**".
- On this day the **Consumer Protection Act, 1986** had received the assent of the president.

### **December 28**

1. Whose birthday is celebrated as Good Governance Day across the country on 25 December?

Answer : Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's

**Explanation :**

- **Good Governance Day: 25 December**
- Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee's** birthday is celebrated as **Good Governance Day** across the country on **25 December**.

- The **Samadhi** of Bharat Ratna and Former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee **Sadaiv Atal** was dedicated to the Nation.

## ECONOMY

### December 2

1. What is the GDP growth rate of India 2018?

Answer : 8.2%

**Explanation :**

- **India's latest Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** growth figures came as a disappointment after it came down from **8.2%, registered in the first quarter** (April-June) of the year 2018, to **7.1% in the second quarter** (July-September).
- These estimates represent a sizable jump from last year's Q2 growth rate estimates of 6.3%, indicating sustained acceleration in India's economic growth," the **Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** said.

2. What is Indian economy growth rate, according to NCAER report?

Answer : 7-7.4 per cent

**Explanation :**

- **Indian economy** is projected to grow at **7-7.4 per cent** in the current fiscal, economic policy think-tank **NCAER** said. According to a report by the **National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)**, the real agriculture **Gross Value Added (GVA)** is envisaged to grow at 3 per cent and real industry GVA at 7 per cent in 2018-19.
- The forecast for **Gross Value Added (GVA)** at basic prices is **7.0-7.4 per cent**. These forecasts at constant (2011-12) prices are based on NCAER's annual GDP macro model, NCAER's **Mid-Year Review of the Economy** said.

### December 3

1. What stand for NSFR?

Answer : Net Stable Funding Ratio

**Explanation :**

- **The RBI** said **NSFR norms** that mandate banks to maintain a stable funding profile in relation to the composition of their assets and off-balance sheet activities will be operational **from April 2020**. The **NSFR** is defined as the amount of available stable funding relative to the amount of required stable funding.
- The guidelines on **Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR)** are in line with global norms prescribed by the **Basel Committee**. The NSFR would be applicable for Indian banks at the solo as well as consolidated level.

### December 4

1. According to Moody's Investors Service, India's real GDP to grow at how much percent in FY 2018-19?

Answer : 7.2 per cent

**Explanation :**

- **Moody's Investors Service's annual Banking System Outlook on India** estimated the country's real gross domestic product (**GDP**) for the current financial year and next fiscal to grow at **7.2 per cent and 7.4 per cent**, respectively.
- The global rating agency stated that the growth will be driven by investment growth and strong consumption. It also stated that the operating environment will be stable, supported by robust economic growth.

2. Which state government signed a loan agreement of \$85 million with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to train 1.5 lakh youths in the state?

Answer : Odisha

**Explanation :**

- **The Odisha government** signed a loan agreement of **\$85 million with Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to train 1.5 lakh youths in the state. With this assistance, youths in the age group of 15-34 years will be given skill development training to make them competent to get better work and higher paying jobs.

**December 5**

1. Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog?

Answer : Rajiv Kumar

**Explanation :**

- **The government** has constituted a six-member **committee** to look at selling as many as **149** small and marginal oil and gas fields of state-owned ONGC and OIL to private and foreign companies to boost domestic output.
- The panel is headed by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar.

2. The Economic Development Board (EDB), the investment promotion arm of the Kingdom of Bahrain signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which government?

Answer : Maharashtra

**Explanation :**

- **The Economic Development Board (EDB)**, the investment promotion arm of the Kingdom of Bahrain signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) **with the Maharashtra Government** to provide a framework for Co-operation between the two authorities to promote FinTech in their respective markets.
- This MoU is in line with the EDB's aims of exploring greater synergies between India and Bahrain in the financial technology space and will last for an initial period of three years.

**December 6**

1. In its fifth bi-monthly meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), RBI maintained repo rate at how much percent?

Answer : 6.5 per cent

**Explanation :**

- On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation at its meeting, the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** decided to: keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) **unchanged at 6.5 per cent** and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at **6.75 per cent**.

2. According to Crisil, at how much percent India will grow in current financial year?

Answer : 7.4 per cent

**Explanation :**

- **CRISIL** cut India's growth forecast for current fiscal to **7.4 per cent** on the back of weakening global GDP and trade growth. India's growth in the July-September quarter slipped to **7.1 per cent** from 8.2 per cent in the **April-June quarter**.

**December 7**

1. Global Economic Outlook released, Fitch estimated India's GDP growth to be which per cent in financial years 2019-20?

Answer : 7 per cent

**Explanation :**

- **Fitch Ratings** slashed **India's GDP growth forecast to 7.2 per cent for current fiscal**, from 7.8 per cent projected in September, citing higher financing cost and reduced credit availability.
- In its **Global Economic Outlook** released, Fitch estimated India's GDP growth to be **7 per cent and 7.1 per cent** in financial years **2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively**.

**December 8**

1. According to a joint report released by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), media consumption in India grew at how much percent over the last 6 years?

Answer : 9 per cent

**Explanation :**

- **Media consumption in India** grew at an annual per capita rate of **9 per cent** over the last six years, far outpacing the US and China in this regard, according to a joint report released by the **Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)** and the **Boston Consulting Group (BCG)**.
- Although the country's rate of media consumption was at twice the pace of China and nine times that in the US, there is "ample headroom" in India for growth to continue, said the report titled "**One Consumer, Many Interactions**", released at the **7th CII Big Picture Summit in New Delhi**.

**December 9**

1. What is the current repo rate in india?

Answer : 6.5 per cent

**Explanation :**

- In view of the "current and evolving macroeconomic situation" in the country, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** decided to keep the policy **repo rate** under the **liquidity adjustment facility (LAF)** unchanged at **6.5 per cent**. The decision was taken at the fifth bi-monthly meeting of the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** of the RBI.
- Consequently, the **reverse repo rate** under the LAF remains at **6.25 per cent**, and the **marginal standing facility (MSF) rate** and the **bank rate** at **6.75 per cent**.

**December 10**

1. According to RBI, India's current account deficit(CAD) widened to how much percent of the GDP in the second quarter of the fiscal?

Answer : 2.9 per cent

**Explanation :**

- India's **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** widened to **2.9 per cent of the GDP** in the second quarter of the fiscal compared to 1.1 per cent in the year-ago period, mainly due to a large trade deficit, the RBI said.

**December 12**

1. Centre and the Asian Development Bank has signed a loan agreement of how much dollars in New Delhi to develop Tourism and boost Jobs in Tamil Nadu?

Answer : 31 million dollars

**Explanation :**

- **Centre and the Asian Development Bank** has signed a loan agreement of **31 million dollars in New Delhi** to develop Tourism and boost Jobs in **Tamil Nadu**.
- Project will support the conservation and restoration of **eight heritage monuments, one museum and three temples**.

**December 13**

1. Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its supplement report "Asian Development Outlook (2018)" has retained India's FY19 growth forecast at which percentage?

Answer : 7.3

**Explanation :**

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** in its supplement report "**Asian Development Outlook (2018)**" has retained India's FY19 growth forecast at **7.3%** and **7.6%** in FY20 despite downside risks posed by stress in the non-banking sector, limited fiscal space as well as escalating trade tensions.

**December 14**

1. What stand for ESCAP?

Answer : UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

**Explanation :**

- As per the **UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) report, FDI inflows to South and South-West Asia** decreased by **6% in 2017** due to a drop in foreign funding flow to countries like India and Turkey.
- According to the report, the foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow to South and South-West Asia stood at USD 63 billion in the last calendar year.

**December 28**

1. Who is the head of economic capital framework committee?

Answer : Bimal Jalan

**Explanation :**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set up an expert committee, headed by its former governor **Bimal Jalan**, to suggest **how the central bank should handle** its reserves and whether it **can transfer its surplus to the government**.

- The committee, which has been formed to review the **existing economic capital framework (ECF)**, will have former RBI deputy governor **Rakesh Mohan** as its vice chairman.

### December 29

1. According to ‘The Public Enterprises Survey 2017-18’, which is top "most profitable PSU"?  
Answer : Indian Oil Corporation

Explanation :

- According to a survey titled ‘**The Public Enterprises Survey 2017-18**’ tabled in the parliament, **Indian Oil Corporation, ONGC and NTPC** emerged as the **top three most profitable PSUs in 2017-18**.
- The survey mapped the performance of central public sector units.

### December 30

1. What does stands for GNPA?  
Answer : Gross Non-Performing Assets

Explanation :

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the ‘**Trends & Progress of Banking in 2017-18**’ report which stated that, system-wide Gross Non-Performing Assets (**GNPA**) of banks rose to **11.2 %** or at **Rs 10.39 trillion** in FY18 from **9.3 %** a year ago.

## BOOKS

### December 2

1. The book ‘Modiraj Main Kisan, Double Aamad Ya Double afat’ was authored by whom?  
Answer : Yogendra Yadav

**Explanation :**

- A book detailing how Modi government’s policies have led to a drop in farmers’ income and caused rural distress across the country was launched in New Delhi. The book ‘**Modiraj Main Kisan, Double Aamad Ya Double afat**’ is authored by Swaraj India President **Yogendra Yadav**.
- It was launched by agricultural economist Ashok Gulati and the Punjab State Farmers’ and Farm Workers’ Commission Chairman Ajay Vir Jakhar among others.

### December 3

1. What is the meaning of “nomophobia”?  
Answer : “fear or worry at the idea of being without your mobile phone or unable to use it”

**Explanation :**

- UK’s Cambridge Dictionary has confirmed “**nomophobia**” the **inaugural People’s Word of the Year (2018)**. Cambridge Dictionary has named “nomophobia” which means the “fear or worry at the idea of being without your mobile phone or unable to use it” became word of the year 2018.

#### December 4

1. “Architecture of Justice: A pictorial walk-through of the Supreme Court and High courts of India” book was released by whom?

Answer : Ranjan Gogoi (Chief Justice of India)

**Explanation :**

- The **Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi** released a book authored by father-son duo **Vinay Thakur and Amogh Thakur** named “**Architecture of Justice: A pictorial walk-through of the Supreme Court and High courts of India**” in New Delhi.
- The book is a one of its kind, never before seen photographic rendition of the Supreme Court of India, the 24 High Courts and its 12 benches.

#### December 5

1. The book ‘Modiraj Main Kisan, Double Aamad Ya Double afat’ was launche by whom?

Answer : Ashok Gulati (agricultural economist) & Ajay Vir Jakhar (Punjab State Farmers’ and Farm Workers’ Commission Chairman)

**Explanation :**

- The book ‘**Modiraj Main Kisan, Double Aamad Ya Double afat**’ is authored by **Swaraj India President Yogendra Yadav**.
- It was launched by agricultural economist **Ashok Gulati** and the Punjab State Farmers’ and Farm Workers’ Commission Chairman **Ajay Vir Jakhar** among others.

#### December 6

1. Name the PVSM, AVSM, ADC Chief of the Naval Staff?

Answer : Admiral Sunil Lanba

**Explanation :**

- **Admiral Sunil Lanba**, PVSM, AVSM, ADC Chief of the Naval Staff, **released a book titled ‘Blue Waters Ahoy’ – chronicling the Indian Navy’s History from 2001-10**.
- The book has been authored by **Vice Admiral Anup Singh**, who retired as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command in 2011.

#### December 10

1. “The Republican Ethic” book released in which city?

Answer : New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** has released a compilation of selected speeches of **President Ram Nath Kovind** titled, “**The Republican Ethic**” in English and “**Loktantra ke Swar**” in Hindi at a function in **New Delhi**.

#### December 23

1. The book “A Rural Manifesto – Realising India’s Future through her Villages” authored by whom?

Answer : BJP MP Varun Gandhi

**Explanation :**

- The book “**A Rural Manifesto – Realising India’s Future through her Villages**” authored by BJP MP **Varun Gandhi** was released in **Bengaluru**.
- The book focuses on challenges faced by farmers, labourers, student and teachers in villages across the country.

### December 27

1. Who is the Chief Minister of Punjab?

Answer : Captain Amarinder Singh

#### **Explanation :**

- **Captain Amarinder Singh**, Chief Minister of Punjab, released the book ‘**Prince, Patron and Patriarch Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala**’, co-authored by the Maharaja’s grandson, Brigadier (Retd) **Jagjit Singh**, and **Cynthia Frederick** in Chandigarh.
- The book which is published by **Roli Books** is a candid tribute by a grandson to the erstwhile exceptional royal king of Kapurthala.

### December 31

1. Which entity has released a booklet titled “A Handbook for Students on cyber Safety” to inform the school children about the different aspects of cyber safety?

Answer : The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

#### **Explanation :**

- **The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India** has released a booklet titled “**A Handbook for Students on cyber Safety**” to inform the school children about the different aspects of cyber safety.
- The booklet aims to create awareness among citizens especially students about cyber threats and provides details about the various safeguards that can be adopted by the children in order to protect themselves from cyber grooming.

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