



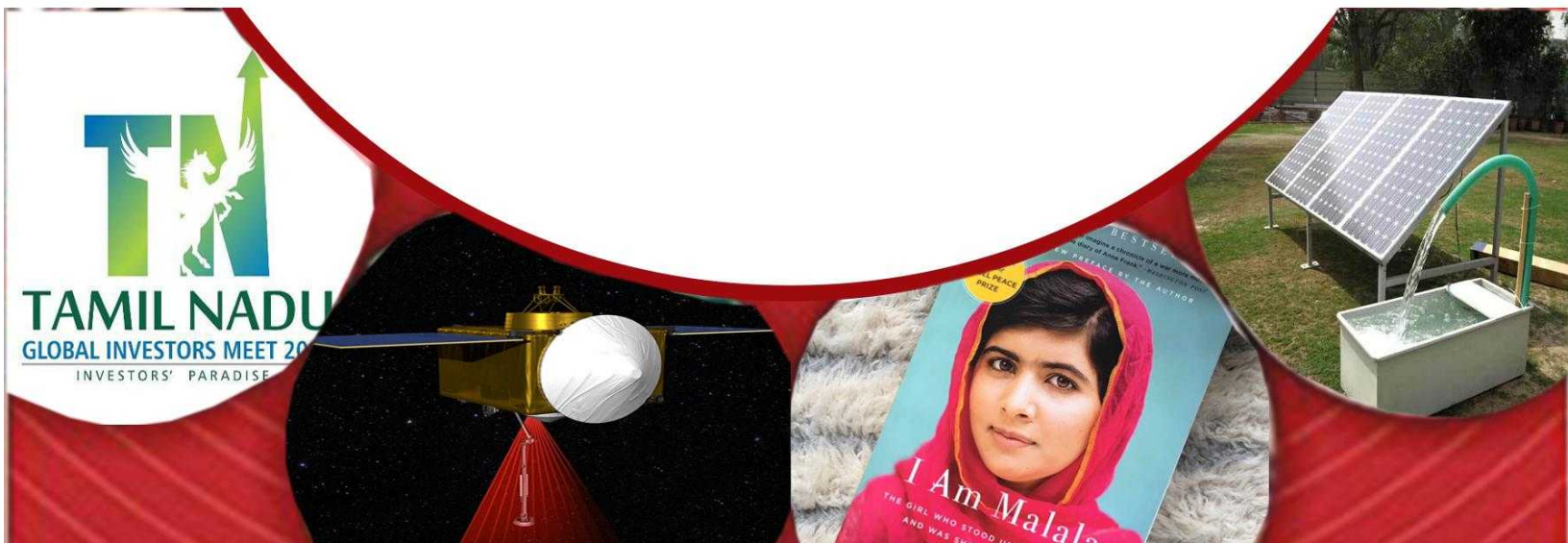
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# நடப்பு நிகழ்வுகள் (CURRENT AFFAIRS)

## JANUARY - 2019

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### January 1

1. Who launched the Ujjwala Sanitary Napkin initiative in Bhubaneswar, Odisha?

**Answer :** Dharmendra Pradhan

**Explanation :**

- To provide access to hygiene products and employment to opportunities in every district of the state, Union Petroleum Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** launched the **Ujjwala Sanitary Napkin** initiative in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- The scheme is a central move to counter Odisha government's Khushi scheme that provides free of cost sanitary napkins to female students of government and government-aided schools in the state.

2. Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate the Centers of Excellence at Deen Dayal Hastkala Sankul?

**Answer :** Uttar Pradesh

**Explanation :**

- The **Deen Dayal Veterinary University** in Uttar Pradesh proposed to set up the **first goat fertility lab** in the state under **Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojna** at the cost of **Rs 22 crores**.
- Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojna or National Agriculture Development Programme is a State Plan Scheme of Additional Central Assistance launched in **August 2007** as a part of the **11th Five Year Plan** by the Government of India.

3. Who approved the proposal for amendments in Rule-12 and Rule-17 of the Rajasthan Judicial Service Rules?

**Answer:** Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot

**Explanation:**

- Rajasthan **Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot** approved the proposal for amendments in **Rule-12 and Rule-17 of the Rajasthan Judicial Service Rules, 2010** after State Cabinet's meeting held under the chairmanship of Ashok Gehlot.
- It has been decided to give **1 per cent reservation to the Backward Classes** in the Rajasthan Judicial Service.

4. Where did the unique Chapparam (Chariot) festival was celebrated in Tamil Nadu?

**Answer:** Madurai Meenakshi temple

**Explanation:**

- The unique **Chapparam (Chariot) festival** was celebrated with traditional rituals and festivities in the famous **Madurai Meenakshi temple, in Tamil Nadu**. The fest symbolizes the importance of preserving all kinds of food and fodder.

5. Who laid the foundation stone for the 12th battalion headquarters at Hollongi, Itanagar?

**Answer :** Pema Khandu

**Explanation :**

- **Arunachal Pradesh** was given a permanent battalion of the **National Disaster Response Force** and Chief Minister **Pema Khandu** laid the foundation stone for the **12th battalion headquarters at Hollongi, Itanagar.**

**January 2**

1. Where did the 'Indian Science Congress (ISC)-2019' held?

**Answer :** Jalandhar, Punjab

**Explanation :**

- World's largest science meet '**Indian Science Congress (ISC)-2019**' is held on 3rd to 7th January 2019, in **Jalandhar, Punjab.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 106th edition of ISC-2019, based on the theme '**Future India: Science and Technology**'

2. Indian Railways will build the country's first vertical lift bridge connecting which towns in Arabian Sea to mainland India?

**Answer :** Rameswaram

**Explanation :**

- **Railways will build the country's first vertical-lift bridge connecting Rameswaram in Arabian Sea to mainland India** that will allow ships and steamers to pass through without any hinderance, replacing the existing 104-year-old Pamban bridge.

3. Railway minister Piyush Goel announced HoneyBee Plan in which state?

**Answer :** Assam

**Explanation :**

- Railway minister **Piyush Goel** announced that the **Honey Bee plan in Assam** that kept elephants away from the tracks will be expanded to other areas of the country. He said that the initiative was started on experiment basis last year.

4. Who has suggested to the AICTE?

**Answer :** B V R Mohan Reddy

**Explanation :**

- A government appointed panel headed by **IIT- Hyderabad chairman B V R Mohan Reddy** has suggested to the All India Council for Technical Education (**AICTE**) to stop setting up new engineering colleges from **2020** and review the creation of new capacity every two years after that.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ was sworn in as the acting Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court?

**Answer :** Justice C Praveen Kumar

**Explanation :**

- **Andhra Pradesh** got a separate high court which will temporarily function from the Chief Minister's camp office in **Amravati**, the new capital of the state till a permanent building for the High Court is being set up at the '**Justice City**' in Amaravati.
- **Justice C Praveen Kumar**, the senior-most judge among the judges allotted to Andhra Pradesh, was appointed as acting Chief Justice of AP High Court, that will have 15 other judges with effect from January 1, 2019.

### January 3

1. In how many states, 100 percent households have been electrified under Saubhagya Yojana?

**Answer : 25**

**Explanation :**

- India achieved electrification in **100% households in 25 states at the end of 2018**. Now, only about 10.48 lakh households are left to be electrified in 4 states – Assam, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, and Chhattisgarh.
- The ‘Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana’ (Saubhagya) in September 2017 to achieve the goal of universal household electrification in the country by 31 March 2019.

2. Which organization launched “Samwad” with Students on New Year Day?

**Answer : ISRO**

**Explanation :**

- As part of the enhanced outreach programme of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), a **new platform named Samwad with Students (SwS) was launched in Bengaluru** on January 1, 2019.
- The new conversation mission will inspire students cutting across schools and colleges.

3. How many total free LPG connections have been released by the government under PMUY?

**Answer : 6-crore**

**Explanation :**

- The government **on January 2, 2019 gave out the 6-croreth free cooking gas (LPG) connection** as the scheme to make available cleaner fuel in every household kitchens runs ahead of schedule.
- The target was later raised to 8 crore connections by 2021 and now envisages giving all households a connection.

The PMUY was launched on 1 May 2016, with a target to give 5 crore connections by March 2019.

4. Who banned the purchase new vehicles and air conditioners (ACs)?

**Answer : Kamal Nath**

**Explanation :**

- **Chief Minister** of the Congress led government of **Madhya Pradesh, Kamal Nath**, banned the purchase new vehicles and air conditioners (ACs) by the government departments due to huge debt of the state.
- Although, hospitals, hostels, Anganwadis, shelter homes have been kept out of the purview of the limitations.

5. When did the ‘Krishi Krishak Bandhu’ scheme will come into effect?

**Answer : January 1, 2019**

**Explanation :**

- The **Mamata Banerjee** led **West Bengal** government announced two welfare initiatives for farmers as a part of the ‘**Krishi Krishak Bandhu**’ scheme which will come into effect from New Year’s Day **January 1, 2019**.
- Under the first of the two schemes, If a farmer aged between **18 to 60 years** dies a natural or unnatural death, the state government will pay his family **Rs 2 lakh**.



## January 4

1. PM Narendra Modi added which slogan to the slogan “Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan” given by the late Prime Minister Lal?

**Answer :** Jai Anusandhan

**Explanation :**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi **added ‘Jai Anusandhan’ to the slogan ‘Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan’** given by the late Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, hailing the power of research to propel the nation into the top league.
- The slogan ‘Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan’ was later prefixed with ‘Jai Vigyan’ by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

2. Which city will be the guest of honour in 27th edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF)?

**Answer :** Sharjah

**Explanation :**

- The 27th edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF), which has the **UAE’s third largest emirate Sharjah as its 2019 guest of honour**, is set to enthrall book lovers from January 5 to 13 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- Co-organised by the National Book Trust (NBT) and the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), the Book Fair’s **theme is “Readers with special needs”**, especially children.

3. Who approved MoU between India and Morocco?

**Answer :** Narendra Modi

**Explanation :**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** approved Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Morocco.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Morocco** on cooperation in the area of **Cyber Security**.

4. Name the agency restructuring by the cabinet for better implementation of Pradhan Mantri -Jan Arogya Yojana?

**Answer :** National Health Authority

**Explanation :**

- **The Cabinet has approves** Restructuring of National Health Agency as **“National Health Authority”** for better implementation of Pradhan Mantri – Jan Arogya Yojana.

5. Which airport has been declared as an authorized Immigration Check post for entry into/exit from India?

**Answer :** Veer Savarkar International Airport

**Explanation :**

- **Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair** has been declared as an **authorized Immigration Check post** for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.

- Andaman and Nicobar Police has been appointed as the ‘**Civil Authority**’ for the purpose of the immigration check post.

## **January 5**

1. Who launched the Prana Raksha web application developed by the Chittoor police at Kuppam?

**Answer :** N. Chandrababu Naidu

**Explanation :**

- Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu** launched the **Prana Raksha** web application developed by the Chittoor police at Kuppam, **Andhra Pradesh**.
- The app has been designed to save the **lives of road accident victims** and reach out to women in distress.

2. Name the bill passed by the Parliament that seeks to do away with the no-detention policy in schools?

**Answer :** Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill

**Explanation :**

- The Indian Parliament on January 3, 2018 passed the **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018** that seeks to do away **with the no-detention policy in schools**.
- The key aim behind the move is to **rebuild the education** system of the country, which is at present broken, as per the Union HRD Minister.

3. Abbreviation for GEF?

**Answer :** Global Environment Facility

**Explanation :**

- The Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare **Shri Parshottam Rupala** informed that the Government had launched a **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** assisted project namely, “**Green – Ag: Transforming Indian Agriculture for global environment benefits and the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes**” in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) during September, 2018.

4. Which state topped among the Indian states in the latest ranking of Singapore’s ACI?

**Answer :** Andhra Pradesh

**Explanation :**

- In the latest ranking of Singapore’s **Asia Competitiveness Institute’s (ACI), Ease of Doing Business (EDB) index 2018**, Andhra Pradesh emerged on top of the 21 states of India that were considered for the ranking, while Maharashtra and Delhi came in second and third place, respectively.

5. Who launched ‘Swachh Survekshan 2019’?

**Answer :** Hardeep Singh Puri

**Explanation :**

- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, **Hardeep Singh Puri**, launched the ‘**Swachh Survekshan 2019**’, the fourth edition of the annual nationwide cleanliness survey of urban India in **New Delhi**.



- The Swachh Survekshan 2019 aims to evaluate the achievements in **the cleanliness level in urban areas** of the country. **It is launched as a part of ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’.**

## **January 6**

1. Where did the NDWBF inaugurated?

**Answer :** Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- The **27th** edition of the **New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF)**, which has the UAE's third largest emirate **Sharjah** as its 2019 guest of honour, inaugurated in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The event will conclude on 13th January.
- To promote the idea of inclusive learning through a series of exhibitions of audio, silent, tactile and Braille books, the Book Fair's theme is **“Books for Readers with Special Needs”**.

2. Which state rose from the 5th rank in 2016 to the top spot in 2018?

**Answer :** Andhra Pradesh

**Explanation :**

- In the latest ranking of Singapore's Asia Competitiveness Institute's (ACI), **Ease of Doing Business (EDB) index 2018**, Andhra Pradesh emerged on top of the 21 states of India that were considered for the ranking, while Maharashtra and Delhi came in second and third place, respectively.
- Andhra Pradesh rose from the 5th rank in 2016 to the top spot in 2018.

3. Where will the Indus Food Meet 2019 be organized by the (TPCI) and union commerce ministry?

**Answer :** Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh

**Explanation :**

- The **Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI)** and union **commerce ministry** is going to organize a two-day mega food international event, the **Indus Food Meet 2019**, at the India Exposition Mart of **Greater Noida** in Uttar Pradesh. The event will conclude on 15th January 2019.
- **Odisha** which will participate as **‘Partner State’** will be setting up its own Pavilion with 30 exhibitors to promote exports of food processing sector.

4. Which state government announced distribution of free sops to encourage farmers to enroll in the Atal ?

**Answer :** Maharashtra

**Explanation :**

- **Maharashtra** Government announced distribution of free sops to encourage farmers to enrol in the **Atal Solar Krishi Pump Yojana**. Launched in October 2018, it aims to reduce losses due to non-payment of electricity bills and also promote solar energy.
- The things included: two LED bulbs, a DC fan and a mobile charging socket.

## January 7

1. Name the chairman of the High-level committee notified by the Government implementation of Clause VI of the Assam Accord?

**Answer :** Shri M.P. Bezbaruah

**Explanation :**

- Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has notified a High-level committee of nine members under the chairmanship of **Shri M.P. Bezbaruah** for implementation of Clause VI of the Assam Accord.
- The Committee is also tasked to assess the requirement of measures that needs to be taken to protect Assamese and other indigenous languages of Assam.

2. Who announced interest-free loans of up to Rs.3 lakh for six lakh women self-help groups (WSHGs)?

**Answer :** Naveen Patnaik

**Explanation :**

- **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** announced interest-free loans of up to **Rs.3 lakh** for **six lakh women self-help groups (WSHGs)** benefitting about 70 lakh women in Odisha.
- This was announced at the 'Mission Shakti' convention attended by about 50,000 women. Also the Odisha government decided to build 'Mission Shakti Home' in each gram panchayat across the state, as a part of '**Mission Shakti**' initiative.

3. Where did the 9-day long international kite festival which marks the Uttarayan?

**Answer :** Ahmedabad, Gujarat

**Explanation :**

- The nine-day long international kite festival which marks the **Uttarayan or Makar Sankranti**, the day when winter season starts changing to summer and farmers welcome the approaching harvest season, kicked off at Sabarmati River Front in **Ahmedabad**, Gujarat.
- This year, the Gujarat government has also decided to organise a kite festival at **Kevadia**, the site of the **Statue of Unity**, a memorial to **Sardar Patel** and the also the world's tallest statue.

4. Which state will be partner state in the upcoming mega international food and beverage show "Indus Food"?

**Answer :** Odisha

**Explanation :**

- Odisha will participate as a partner state in the upcoming mega international food and beverage show '**Indus Food 2019**'.
- The Indus Food meet is a mega international food exposition organized at India Exposition Mart, Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh on January 14 and 15.

5. Which state has become the first railway station of South Central Railway (SCR) zone?

**Answer :** Secunderabad Railway Station, in Hyderabad

**Explanation :**

- **Secunderabad Railway Station, in Hyderabad**, became the first railway station of **South Central Railway (SCR)** zone to hoist a huge tricolour on a **100-foot** tall pole. The flag would be guarded by the **Railway Protection Force (RPF)**.

### **January 8**

1. Union Cabinet approved what per cent quota in jobs and educational institutions for economically weaker sections in general category?

**Answer :** 10%

**Explanation :**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** approved **10 pc quota** in jobs and educational institutions for **economically weaker sections in general category**.
- For the implementation of the quota, **Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution** will have to be amended.

2. Name the bill cleared by Union Cabinet to provide Indian citizenship to non-Muslims from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan?

**Answer :** Citizenship Amendment Bill

**Explanation :**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** cleared the redrafted **Citizenship Amendment Bill** thus providing Indian citizenship to non-Muslims from **Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan**.
- First introduced in Parliament in **2016**, the bill seeks to amend the **Citizenship Act 1955**.

3. Recently, Prime Minister Erna Solberg visited India. She is the current PM of which country?

**Answer :** Norway

**Explanation :**

- **Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg** has arrived in New Delhi on a three-day state visit to India. She was accompanied by senior officials from her government and a large business delegation. She will participate in the Indo-Norwegian Business Conference.

4. Name the mobile application launched by North Central Railway (NCR)?

**Answer :** Rail Kumbh Seva Mobile App

**Explanation :**

- The North Central Railway, NCR has launched a mobile application to help people navigate through Prayagraj city during Kumbh Mela starting from January 15. The **‘Rail Kumbh Seva Mobile App’** will also provide information regarding all the ‘Mela special’ trains that will be run during the period.
- Additionally, the app will provide a link to the user to buy both unreserved and reserved train tickets.

5. Name the project won two Guinness world records for ‘pouring the highest amount of concrete’?

**Answer :** Polavaram irrigation project in Andhra Pradesh

**Explanation :**



- **The Polavaram irrigation project in Andhra Pradesh** created two **Guinness world records** for ‘pouring the highest amount of concrete’ and ‘largest continuous concrete pour in 24 hours’.
- The Polavaram irrigation project is located in **West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh**.

### January 9

1. Where did the Centre for Classical Language located?

**Answer :** Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University in Tirur

**Explanation :**

- The Union Government issued its nod for setting up the **Centre for Classical Language** at the **Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University in Tirur, Kerala**.
- As per the notification, the state government will enter into an MOU with the **Union Ministry of Human Resources Development**.

2. Who announced the formation of a new district Kallakurichi?

**Answer :** Edappadi K Palaniswam

**Explanation :**

- **Tamil Nadu** chief minister **Edappadi K Palaniswam** announced the formation of a new district **Kallakurichi** by bifurcating Villupuram district which is one of the large districts in the State. With this, the state will now have 33 districts.
- The decision was taken because the previous coverage of the district Villupuram was huge and it was becoming difficult for the administrators to govern the district.

3. The 2-day long Global Aviation Summit 2019 will be held in which city?

**Answer :** Mumbai

**Explanation :**

- In a first, the 2-day long **Global Aviation Summit 2019** with the theme “**Flying for all**” will be organized by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** in collaboration with **FICCI** from January 15-16, 2019 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The Summit aims to focus on the celebration of ‘**Flying for All**’ and to provide a platform to the aviation fraternity to showcase the challenges of the sector.

4. Where did the fourth edition of the Raisina Dialogue has begin?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- **The fourth edition of the Raisina Dialogue** has begun in New Delhi. **Norway Prime Minister Ms. Erna Solberg** delivered inaugural address in presence of PM Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.
- The theme of the Dialogue this year is “**A World Reorder: New Geometries; Fluid Partnerships; Uncertain Outcomes**”.

5. Which ministry has introduced a 70-point grading index?

**Answer :** HRD ministry

**Explanation :**

- The HRD ministry has introduced a **70-point grading index** to assess the quality of school education offered by states. A state performance grading will be done wherein the states will be marked out of **1,000 scores on 70 parameters**.
- There will be a **fair competition** to improve each other's performances.

### January 10

1. Who has approved Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six communities of Assam?

**Answer :** Union Cabinet

**Explanation :**

- Union Cabinet has approved Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six communities of Assam. The communities that are proposed to be extended ST status include, **Koch Rajbongshi, Tai Ahom, Chutiya, Matak, Moran and the tea tribes**.
- The move came before the centre introduced the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019 in Lok Sabha. This amendment bill will give a status to the various tribal people.

2. Jammu and Kashmir Law Department set up a State law commission, for 3 years, under the chairmanship of ?

**Answer :** Justice (Retd) M K Hanjura

**Explanation :**

- The Jammu and Kashmir administration set up a law commission, with **Justice (Retd) M K Hanjura as its founding chairperson**, to identify redundant and obsolete laws that can be repealed and suggest measures for quick redress of public grievances.

3. Which Union Ministry launched an online campaign, '#www: Web- WonderWomen' to recognize the exceptional women who have been driving positive agenda of social change via social media?

**Answer :** Ministry of Women and Child Development

**Explanation :**

- To recognize the exceptional women who have been driving positive agenda of social change via social media, the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, Government of India, has launched an online campaign, **'#www: Web- WonderWomen'**.
- The partners of the campaign are: **Breakthrough and Twitter India**.

4. Which body has decided to set up a Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (CARE) to refine and strengthen the Credibility of Research Publications?

**Answer :** University Grants Commission (UGC)

**Explanation :**

- To refine and strengthen the Credibility of Research Publications, The Minister of State (HRD), Dr. Satya Pal Singh announced that the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** approved list of journals and the proposal to establish a **Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (CARE)**.
- The **'CARE Reference List of Quality Journals'** will be regularly updated and published by the UGC and the Members of the Consortium at their respective websites and will be used for all academic purposes.

5. Who inaugurated the project Development of North East Circuit?

**Answer :** Shri. Conrad K Sangma

**Explanation :**

- The Chief Minister of **Meghalaya, Shri. Conrad K Sangma**, inaugurated the project **“Development of North East Circuit: Umiam (Lake View) – U Lum Sohpetbneng-Mawdiangdiang – Orchid Lake Resort”** under Tourism Ministry’s **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**.
- The project was sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism in **July 2016 for Rs. 99.13 Crores**.

### **January 11**

1. Where was the 4th edition of Raisina Dialogue, India’s flagship annual geopolitical and geostrategic conference held?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- **4th Edition of Raisina Dialogue** was organized by **Ministry of External Affairs** in partnership with Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi. The Theme of the Dialogue was **“A World Reorder: New Geometries; Fluid Partnerships; Uncertain Outcomes”**.
- The Raisina Dialogue whose first edition was held in 2015 is India’s flagship annual **geopolitical and geostrategic conference**.

2. Who inaugurated India’s longest 300-meter single-lane steel cable suspension bridge over Siang River?

**Answer :** PemaKhandu

**Explanation :**

- Arunachal Pradesh **Chief Minister PemaKhandu** inaugurated India’s longest 300-meter single-lane **steel cable suspension bridge** over **Siang River** in Upper Siang district of state bordering China.
- The suspension bridge, also known as **Byorung Bridge**. It will reduce the distance from **Yingkiong to Tuting town by almost 40 km**. The earlier road length was 192 km.

3. The first National Consultation on Child Protection for 2019 was held in which city?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- **First 2019 edition** of the **‘National Consultation on Child Protection’** was held at India Habitat Centre, **New Delhi**, under the Chairmanship of the **Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- The next quarterly meeting would be held in May, 2019.

4. Name the bill passed by Lok Sabha by voice vote after a brief discussion?

**Answer :** The DNA Technology Regulation Bill, 2019

**Explanation :**

- The Lok Sabha passed **“The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019”** by voice vote after a brief discussion.
- The Bill has been formulated recognizing the need for regulation of the use and application of **Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) technology**, for establishing identity of missing persons, victims, offenders, under trials and unknown deceased persons.



## January 12

1. Who launched NCAP in New Delhi?

**Answer :** Dr. Harsh Vardhan

**Explanation :**

- The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** launched **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** in **New Delhi**.
- It will be launched in the **43** smart cities falling in the list of the **102 non-attainment cities**, under the Smart Cities program. Selection of **102** non-attainment cities identified with respect to 'Ambient Air Quality India' report of **2011-15** and **WHO** report of **2014-2018**.

2. How many states involved in an agreement for Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project?

**Answer :** 6 states

**Explanation :**

- 6 states, **Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand**, in the presence of **Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Shri Nitin Gadkari**, signed an agreement for **Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project** in **New Delhi**.

3. Who inaugurated 25th Partnership Summit 2019?

**Answer :** M. Venkaiah Naidu

**Explanation :**

- Indian and global leaders on economic policy shall deliberate for two days at the **25th Partnership Summit 2019**, which will be inaugurated by Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu**.

4. Where was the 4th meeting of the CTDP chaired by Suresh Prabhu?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- To tap the global value and supply chain by promoting the export of services, organic agricultural produce, the **4th** meeting of the **Council for Trade Development and Promotion (CTDP)**, chaired by **Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu**, was held in **New Delhi**.

5. Where was the Global Skill Summit 2019 themed 'Skilling Youth, Enabling Youth' held ?

**Answer :** Ranchi, Jharkhand

**Explanation :**

- The one-day **Global Skill Summit 2019** was held in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**. It is the only state where overall three global summits were organized in a row merely in four years by the state government. It was under the **#MOMENTUM JHARKHAND** campaign.
- The theme of the Summit was: '**Skilling Youth, Enabling Youth**'.

6. Which is the first state to implement UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME SYSTEM?

**Answer :** Sikkim

**Explanation :**

- Sikkim, though being a smallest state have set a initiative to introduce UBI in the entire nation. Sikkim's long lasting chief minister and head of sikkim's ruling party (sikkim

democratic front) **Pawan kumar chamling**, quoted that if everything goes right then sikkim would be the first state to implement UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME SYSTEM and execute it by **2022**.

- This scheme is also regarded as an alternative to social welfare programmes with benefits towards reducing poverty.

### **January 13**

1. Which state launched “Ama Ghare LED” scheme?

**Answer :** Odisha

**Explanation :**

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the ‘**Ama Ghare LED**’ scheme, under which about 95 lakh families in the state will each get four LED bulbs free of cost.
- The free LED bulbs will be distributed at Panchayat offices as well as PEETHA (People’s Empowerment—Enabling Transparency and Accountability of Odisha Initiative) camps across the state.

2. Which state launched “One Family,One Job” scheme?

**Answer :** Sikkim

**Explanation :**

- Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling launched the ‘**One Family, One Job**’ **scheme** that envisions jobs to a member of every family which does not have a government job in the state.
- Chamling’s Sikkim Democratic Front government has announced that 20,000 youths would immediately be given temporary jobs under the scheme.

3. Organics and Millets 2019 International Trade Fair will be held in which city?

**Answer :** Bengaluru

**Explanation :**

- The much sought after **Organics and Millets-2019 International Trade Fair**, organized by the Government of Karnataka’s Department of Agriculture, will be held from **18th to 20th January 2019 in Bengaluru’s Palace Grounds**.
- The flagship event will revolve around the theme: K-Source, celebrating the State of Karnataka as the source for Next Gen Smart Foods.

4. In which city,ISRO is setting up a “Human Space Flight Centre”?

**Answer :** Bengaluru

**Explanation :**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is setting up a ‘**Human Space Flight Centre**’ in **Bengaluru**, which will support its quest of making country’s maiden manned space mission a success.
- Gaganyaan, an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft is intended to be the foundation of the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme.

5. Where was the 6th annual ‘Women of India Organic Festival’ held?

**Answer :** Chandigarh

**Explanation :**

- The **three-day 6th annual 'Women of India Organic Festival'** commenced at Leisure Valley, Sector-10, **Chandigarh**. This is the **first time** the event is being held in Chandigarh. It has been organized by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- It aims to celebrate and promote women farmers and entrepreneurs in the **organic sector** from the remotest parts of India.

6. Where was the 29th Indian Paint Conference–2019 held?

**Answer :** Agra, UttarPradesh

**Explanation :**

- The **3-day 29th Indian Paint Conference–2019** commenced in **Agra, Uttar Pradesh**. It would conclude on **January 13, 2019**.
- The theme of the Conference is 'Paints Pe Charcha – Naye Aayaam'.

### **January 14**

1. Who give his assent to the Constitution Act, 2019 which grants 10 percent reservation in jobs?

**Answer :** Ram Nath Kovind

**Explanation :**

- The President of India, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind** has given his assent to the Constitution (One Hundred and third Amendment) Act, 2019 which grants **10 per cent reservation** in jobs and educational institutions to the **economically weaker sections in the general category**.
- The Act amends Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution to provide reservation to the economically weaker sections in the general category.

2. Who launched the National Youth Parliament Festival 2019?

**Answer :** Col Rajyavardhan Rathore

**Explanation :**

- Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Col Rajyavardhan Rathore** on January 12, 2019 launched the **National Youth Parliament Festival 2019** at a function in **New Delhi**. The festival will continue till 24th of February 2019. The theme of the festival is- **Be the Voice of New India and Find solutions and contribute to policy**.
- **This programme is launched in accordance with National Youth Day**.

3. Where did the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of CTDP held?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, **chaired the 4th meeting** of the Council for Trade Development and Promotion (CTDP) **in New Delhi**.
- Suresh Prabhu informed in the meeting that the Government of India has formulated an Agricultural Export Policy for the first time with a focused plan to boost India's agricultural exports to USD 60 billion by 2022.

4. Where did the 25th edition of Partnership Summit 2019 held?

**Answer :** Mumbai



**Explanation :**

- The **25th edition of Partnership Summit 2019**, a global platform for dialogue, debate, deliberation and engagement among Indian and global leaders on economic policy and growth trends in **India was held in Mumbai**.
- The **two-day** event was **inaugurated** by the **Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu**.

5. Name the ordinance promulgated by President Ram Nath Kovind to protect the rights of married Muslim women and criminalise the practice of triple talaq or “Talaq-e-Biddat”?

**Answer :** Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance, 2019

**Explanation :**

- **Ministry of Law and Justice announced** that President Kovind has promulgated **The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance, 2019**. The ordinance is to protect the rights of married Muslim women and criminalise the practice of triple talaq or Talaq-e-Biddat”.
- On this occasion, The President also re-promulgated Companies Amendment Ordinance 2019 and Indian Medical Council Amendment Ordinance 2019.

**January 15**

1. Which state become the first to implement the 10% reservation for economically weaker sections of the general category?

**Answer :** Gujarat

**Explanation :**

- Gujarat has become the first state to implement the **10% reservation for economically weaker sections of the general category**. This comes a day after President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the bill.

2. The production, sale and use of single-use plastic products will be banned in the Union Territory of Puducherry from \_\_\_\_?

**Answer :** March 1 2019

**Explanation :**

- **Puducherry government has imposed a ban on the sale and use of plastic products** in the Union Territory from March 1.
- On March 23 last year, the Maharashtra government had issued a notification, imposing a ban on the manufacture, use, sale and distribution of all plastic materials like plastic bags, spoons, plates, bottles and thermocol items.

3. Where did the 9th International Micro Irrigation Conference on Modern Agriculture held?

**Answer :** Aurangabad in Maharashtra

**Explanation :**

- Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India is organizing the **9th International Micro Irrigation Conference on Modern Agriculture at Aurangabad in Maharashtra** from January 16–18, 2019.
- The event will be a multi-disciplinary dialogue in the form of a conference discussing issues related to micro irrigation for modern agriculture and various related issues like

new techniques in micro irrigation for increased crop productivity, micro irrigation in cluster level farming etc.

4. Who launched special weather services for the benefit of people visiting Prayagraj during Kumbh Mela?

**Answer :** Dr Harshvardhan

**Explanation :**

- Union Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment and Forests and Climate Change, **Dr Harshvardhan** launched the special weather services for the benefit of people visiting Prayagraj during **Kumbh Mela** at a function in New Delhi.

5. Who launched country's largest startup ecosystem, integrated startup complex under KSUM?

**Answer :** Pinarayi Vijayan

**Explanation :**

- **Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan** launched country's largest startup ecosystem, integrated startup complex **under the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)**, at the **Technology Innovation Zone (TIZ)**, in **Kochi, Kerala**.

### **January 16**

1. Government has launched which initiative on GeM– to enable women entrepreneurs and self-help groups to sell different products at the platform?

**Answer :** Womaniya

**Explanation :**

- Government eMarketplace (GeM) has launched an **initiative – Womaniya on GeM** – to enable women entrepreneurs and self-help groups to sell different products at the platform.
- GeM is an online platform of the ministry for procurement of goods and services by government departments, public sector units, and other agencies.

2. Recently, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Bolangir-Bichhupali railway line in which state?

**Answer :** Odisha

**Explanation :**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Bolangir-Bichhupali railway line in Balangir, Odisha**.
- The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for a permanent building at the Kendriya Vidyalaya at Sonapur and inaugurated new Passport Sewa Kendras at Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapur, Puri, Phulbani, Bargarh and Balangir.

3. The Global Aviation Summit 2019 was held in which city?

**Answer :** Mumbai

**Explanation :**

- Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the **Global Aviation Summit 2019 in Mumbai**. The two-day summit, with a **theme 'Flying for all-especially the next 6 Billion'**, is being organised by Ministry of Civil Aviation in association with FICCI.
- It offers stakeholders an opportunity to explore, deliberate and understand how technology-driven innovations will change air travel in the decades to come.

4. Who inaugurated Regional Centre of NIPCCD at Mohali, Punjab?

**Answer :** Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi

**Explanation :**

- Minister of Women and Child Development, **Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi** inaugurated Regional Centre of National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) at **Mohali, Punjab**. It is a premier organisation devoted to promotion of voluntary action research, training and documentation in the overall domain of women and child development.
- This organisation have already four such Regional Centres one each at **Bangalore, Guwahati, Indore and Lucknow** besides the Headquarters at **New Delhi**.

5. Where was the First Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme organised ?

**Answer :** Mumbai

**Explanation :** New Delhi

- The **First Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme** was organised by **Ministry of External Affairs** in New Delhi. The event will be concluded on 1st February 2019.
- The Fellowship Programme, which is being held at the **Foreign Services Institute, New Delhi** will be attended by Young Diplomats from 27 countries.

### January 17

1. Abbreviation for SAKSHAM?

**Answer :** Sanrakshan Kshmata Mahotsav

**Explanation :**

- Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan flagged off **SAKSHAM (Sanrakshan Kshmata Mahotsav)** Vans to promote and create awareness among people on the need of oil and gas conservation for the future and the methods to do it.
- The van will travel to 30 districts to create awareness on conservation of energy for a better future.

2. Where did the 6<sup>th</sup> 'Women of India Organic Festival' held?

**Answer :** Leisure Valley, Chandigarh

**Explanation :**

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is organised the three-day **6th 'Women of India Organic Festival'** at **Leisure Valley, Chandigarh**, to celebrate and promote women farmers and entrepreneurs in the organic sector from the remotest parts of India.
- The festival aims to encourage Indian women entrepreneurs and farmers to connect with more buyers and thus, empower them through financial inclusion, while promoting organic culture in India.

3. Who inaugurated the Global Aviation Summit (GAS) 2019?

**Answer :** Shri Suresh Prabhu

**Explanation :**



- The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, **Shri Suresh Prabhu** inaugurated the **Global Aviation Summit (GAS) 2019** which is being organised by **Ministry of Civil Aviation** in association with **Airport Authority of India (AAI)** and **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** in Mumbai.
- **The Vision 2040** for aviation sector and the **Air Cargo Policy** was launched during the summit.

4. Which state government launched “Jai Kisan Rin Mukti Yojana”?

**Answer :** Madhya Pradesh

**Explanation :**

- **“Jai Kisan Rin Mukti Yojana”** scheme was launched by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shri. Kamal Nath**. It is **Rs. 50,000 crore** farm loan waiver scheme for farmers. The loan waiver forms could be submitted till February 5 and farmers would start getting the benefits from February 22.

5. What is the slogan used by the devotees commencing the Kumbh mela?

**Answer :** “Chalo Kumbh Chale”

**Explanation :**

- The **55-day long Kumbh Mela 2019** commenced with the Shahi Snan of Akharas at Sangam- the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and the mystical Saraswati -at **Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh**. **“Chalo Kumbh Chale”** was the slogan used by the devotees commencing the mela.
- An area of 20 lakh sq. ft area, was designated for the street art projects under an initiative by Kumbh Mela Authority called **“Paint my city”**

### **January 18**

1. Where did the 1st batch of UNNATI programme of (ISRO) held?

**Answer :** Bengaluru

**Explanation :**

- **Minister of State in Department of Space Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the 1st batch of **UNNATI** programme of Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**. The full form of **UNNATI** is: **Unispace** Nanosatellite Assembly and Training programme.
- It has been launched by ISRO as part of initiative by **United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs** to commemorate the **50th** anniversary of the **first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE-50)**.

2. Who inaugurated the three- day Gandhian Resurgence Summit?

**Answer :** Shri. Ramnath Nath Kovind

**Explanation :**

- Honorable President of India **Shri. Ramnath Nath Kovind** inaugurated the three-day **Gandhian Resurgence Summit** on the occasion of Father of the Nation **Mahatma Gandhi’s 150 birth** anniversary at **Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh**. It concludes on 19th January, 2019.

3. Where did the 9th International Micro irrigation held?

**Answer :** Aurangabad

**Explanation :**

- **Union Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated the **three-day long 9th International Micro irrigation** conference at **Aurangabad, Maharashtra**. The conference would conclude on January 18, 2019.
- The Theme of the conference was: **“Micro Irrigation and Modern Agriculture”**.

4. The first National Sports Meet 2019 for Tribals was organized in which city?

**Answer :** Hyderabad

**Explanation :**

- The **first National Sports Meet 2019 for Tribals** was organised by the Ministry of Tribal Welfare in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- Tribal children of Ekalavya Model Residential Schools from 20 states participated in the program.

5. “Global Housing Technology Challenge-India” will be implemented under which mission?

**Answer :** Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban Mission

**Explanation :**

- **Shri Hardeep S. Puri, Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** launched the **“Global Housing Technology Challenge-India” (GHTC-India)** in **New Delhi**. This will be implemented under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) Mission**.
- Under this, the best globally available innovative construction technologies would be adopted by India to deliver ready to live-in houses in a shorter time, with lower cost and quality construction.

### **January 19**

1. Name the academy that launched the second phase of the WebCampaign ‘SĀNJHI – MUJH MEIN KALĀKĀR’?

**Answer :** Sangeet Natak Akademi

**Explanation :**

- To document and promote direct public-participation in the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and diverse cultural traditions of the country, the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, **Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA)** launched the second phase of the Web Campaign ‘SĀNJHI –MUJH MEIN KALĀKĀR’.

2. Where did Suresh Prabhu inaugurate the three-day 10th India Rubber Expo – 2019?

**Answer :** Mumbai

**Explanation :**

- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, **Suresh Prabhu** inaugurated the **three-day 10th India Rubber Expo – 2019** at the Bombay Exhibition Centre in **Mumbai**. It concludes on 19th January, 2019.
- The India Rubber Expo is Asia’s largest rubber expo. The event offers a unique opportunity for Indian companies to meet and collaborate with overseas companies.

3. What is the distance for Diffo Bridge over Chipu River in Lower Dibang Valley District in Arunachal Pradesh?

**Answer :** 426.60 metre

**Explanation :**

- Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the 426.60 metre long **Diffo Bridge over Chipu River in Lower Dibang Valley District in Arunachal Pradesh.**
- In addition to enhancing operational capability, the 329-metre bridge will usher economic prosperity for people of Namsai, Lohit, Anjaw and Lower Dibang districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

4. In which city, a Regional Conference on “Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme” was held?

**Answer :** Mumbai

**Explanation :**

- A **Regional Conference on ‘Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme’** was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Programme Implementing Agencies including NGOs and state government representatives from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Goa were present for the conference.

5. In which city, BES EXPO 2019 was held?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- Information and Broadcasting Secretary Amit Khare and TRAI Chairman RS Sharma inaugurated the 25th International conference and exhibition on terrestrial and satellite broadcasting, **BES EXPO 2019 in New Delhi.**
- The **theme for this exhibition is Next Gen Broad casting in the IT World.**

6. In which city The second world orange festival has begun?

**Answer :** Nagpur

**Explanation :**

- The **second World Orange Festival has begun in Nagpur.** The festival, while offering its famed oranges to the world, will also showcase and brand the exquisite fruit in order to boost its export.

7. Which state became the 3<sup>rd</sup> state after Jharkhand and Gujarat to approve the 10 per cent reservation for economically backward?

**Answer :** Uttar Pradesh

**Explanation :**

- **Uttar Pradesh** became the **third state** after **Jharkhand** and **Gujarat** to approve the **10 per cent reservation** for economically backward among upper castes in jobs and educational institutions.
- The Reservation for the poor among upper castes came into effect on 14th January 2019, when Parliament passed “The Constitution (124 Amendment) Bill 2019”

### January 20

1. Which city will be country’s second defence innovation hub after Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu?

**Answer :** Nashik

**Explanation :**

- **Nashik in Maharashtra** will be the site of the **country's second defence innovation hub** after Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu. The defence innovation hub at Nashik will help local industries and entrepreneurs and further the Centre's Make in India push in the country's defence sector.

2. Which state government launched "School Fagat-Hansi" Mission?

**Answer :** Manipur

**Explanation :**

- **Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh** launched '**School Fagat-Hansi**' mission, an initiative under the Government's popular 'Go to Village' mission.
- The scheme has been introduced with an ambitious objective to give renewed thrust towards the improvement of government schools both in terms of physical and manpower infrastructure.

3. Which ministry starts 'Know Your Budget' series?

**Answer :** Finance Ministry

**Explanation :**

- **Finance Ministry** started '**Know Your Budget**' series to educate people on Twitter about the importance of Union Budget and its making.
- The series began with explaining the terms: **Union Budget** and **Vote on Account**. The government on February 1, 2019 would unveil the interim Budget for **2019-20**.

4. In which city Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Museum of Indian Cinema?

**Answer :** Mumbai

**Explanation :**

- Prime Minister of India, **Shri Narendra Modi** launched the **Country's First National Museum of Indian Cinema** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra** that seeks to portray over a century-old journey of movies in India.
- The National Museum of Indian Cinema was build under the guidance by the Museum **Advisory Committee headed by noted film maker Shyam Benegal**.

5. Which state government announced the extension of free health services under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY)?

**Answer :** Odisha

**Explanation :**

- Odisha Chief Minister, **Shri Naveen Patnaik** announced the extension of free health services under **Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY)** to all medical colleges and hospitals of Odisha from 1st February 2019.
- BSKY was launched on 15th August 2018 by Odisha Government. This scheme provide free medical services to all at government colleges and hospital irrespective of the category of the patients without any requirement of income, residence or any other document.

6. Where was the Agri-Vision 2019 conference on 'envisioning Agro-solutions for smart and Sustainable Agriculture' held?



**Answer :** Hyderabad

**Explanation :**

- Vice-President of India Shri Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the 2-days **Agri-Vision 2019 conference on “envisioning Agro-solutions for smart and Sustainable Agriculture”** in Hyderabad, Telangana. The conference was concluded on 18th January 2019.

### **January 21**

1. Who inaugurated Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor in the Tiruchirapalli district?

**Answer :** Nirmala Sitharaman

**Explanation :**

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the **Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor in the Tiruchirapalli district of Tamil Nadu**, with various private and public sector industries announcing an investment of around Rs 3100 crores.
- This will be the country's second defence industrial corridor after the **first one was launched in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh** August last year.

2. Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit 2019 concluded in which city?

**Answer :** Gandhinagar

**Explanation :**

- Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit 2019 at **Mahatma Mandir in Gandhi Nagar** concluded on 20th January. 75 member delegation of Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council participated in this Summit.
- This year United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan & Morocco were the **partner countries** for 9th edition of Vibrant Gujarat.

3. What is the feature of logo unveiled by Tripura government?

**Answer :** Neermahal

**Explanation :**

- The Tripura government has unveiled an official logo for the state's tea to popularise the beverage and to promote the potentiality of tourism.
- The **logo features Tripura's iconic landmark, the “Neermahal”** which is the largest and one-of-its-kind water palace in India.

4. In which state Manohar Lal Khattar laid the foundation stone of “Haryana Bhawan” at the “Statue of Unity” complex?

**Answer :** Gujarat

**Explanation :**

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar laid the **foundation stone of “Haryana Bhawan” at the “Statue of Unity” complex in Kevadiya, Gujarat.**
- Probably Haryana is the first state of the country that has laid the foundation stone for the construction of its state house in this complex.

5. Name the city, Danish PM Lars Lokke Rasmussen inaugurated a Danish Cultural Institute ?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- In a bid to boost people-to-people ties and cultural exchanges, **Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen inaugurated a Danish Cultural Institute in New Delhi.**
- Headquartered in Denmark, the Danish Cultural Institute has been engaged in fostering mutual understanding between people and cultures since 1940.

## January 22

1. Which government released 'Startup & Innovation policy 2018-2023'?

**Answer :** Tamil Nadu

**Explanation :**

- Tamil Nadu government released '**Startup & Innovation policy 2018-2023**' with a mission to provide an innovative ecosystem for startups registered in the State and to make Tamil Nadu a 'Global Innovation hub for startups' by 2023.

2. Which state government announced a hike of Rs 200 per month in the social security pension under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY)?

**Answer :** Odisha

**Explanation :**

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced in a video conference on "**Ama Gaon, Ama Bikash**" a hike of Rs 200 per month in the social security pension under **Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY)**.
- The state government launched Madhu Babu Pension Yojana on **January 1, 2008**, by merging two pension schemes – **Old Age Pension and Odisha Disability Pension schemes**.

3. Uttar Pradesh government announced a monthly pension of \_\_\_\_\_ rupees to the destitute women in Varanasi?

**Answer :** Rs500

**Explanation :**

- UP government announced to give a monthly pension of Rs500 to the destitute women in **Varanasi**. This measure came immediately after the implementation of 10 per cent reservation for economically weak in the general category in the upcoming educational year.
- The pension will be provided to Hindu sadhus who are above the age of 60. This announcement was made when **Prayagraj** in Uttar Pradesh is hosted **Kumbh Mela 2019**.

4. What is the % did the government decided to induct women in military police?

**Answer :** 20%

**Explanation :**

- Government decided to induct **20%** women in military police. This decision is taken with motive to represent women in the armed force, they will be appointed for the **first time in Personnel Below Officer Rank, PBOR**.
- Their job criteria would be investigating offences like rape cases, policing cantonment and extending support to the civil police whenever needed.

5. Name the states where the Government approved Setting up of Three Naval air Squadrons?

**Answer :** Gujarat and Tamil Nadu

**Explanation :**

- Government approved Setting up of **Three Naval air Squadrons in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu**. This Decision is taken to enrich the Indian Navy's Overall Strength.
- In addition to this approval Government of India also approved recruitment of ManPower for Dornier Surveillance Squadrons located in Kerala and Andaman Islands.

6. What is the theme of 15th edition of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas?

**Answer :** Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India

**Explanation :**

- The 3 day event of the **15th edition of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas** begins at **Varanasi** in Uttar Pradesh for the first time.
- **‘Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India’** is the theme for this year.

### January 23

1. Which committee constituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry?

**Answer :** Baba Kalyani

**Explanation :**

- The **Baba Kalyani led committee** constituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to study the existing **Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** policy of India submitted its report to **Union Minister for Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu** in **New Delhi**.
- The report says that if **India is going to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025** then the current environment of manufacturing competitiveness and services has to undergo a basic paradigm shift.

2. What is the cost to built a inter-state bridge in Jammu and Kashmir?

**Answer :** Rs 150 crore

**Explanation :**

- Nitin Gadkari to inaugurate first inter-state bridge in Jammu and Kashmir. It was built at a cost of **Rs 150 crore** in a span of three and a half years linking areas of **Katthua district with Punjab**.
- The bridge also called as Keediyani-Gandiyal bridge is 1.2 km-long on the river **Ravi**

3. In which city India Steel 2019 Exhibition and Conference began?

**Answer :** Mumbai

**Explanation :**

- The **4th International Exhibition & Conference on Steel Industry, India Steel 2019 Exhibition and Conference** was organised by **Ministry of Steel** in association with Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (**FICCI**) at NSE Complex Goregaon, **Mumbai**.
- The theme of the event is **“Balancing Steel Demand & Supply Dynamics: Building a New India”**.

4. Which state declared Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF) as the “State Festival”?

**Answer :** Arunachal Pradesh

**Explanation :**

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister, **Pema Khandu declared Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF)** as the “State Festival” during a valedictory ceremony of the fourth edition of the festival at Seijosa in East Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF) is only conservation festival of Arunachal Pradesh.

5. What is the % reserved to the economically weaker sections (EWS)?

**Answer :** five percent

**Explanation :**

- **Andhra Pradesh government** decided to give only **five per cent reservation to the economically weaker sections (EWS)** under the Centre's 10 per cent quota, setting aside the rest to the upper caste Kapus in its capital city **Amaravathi**

**January 24**

1. Which state government announced to reverse the Atal Seva Kendra as Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra?

**Answer :** Rajasthan

**Explanation :**

- **Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot** said that the state government has decided to reverse the **Atal Seva Kendra** (seva kendras at village panchayat and panchayat samiti level) as **Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra**, the original name.
- In 2014, former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje-led government had renamed the kendras to honour former prime minister late **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** on his birth anniversary.

2. Who inaugurated 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019?

**Answer :** Shripad Naik

**Explanation :**

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH, **Shripad Naik** inaugurated **2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019** in **Goa**. International drug regulators who are dealing with homeopathic or traditional medicines from various countries participated in the forum.

3. Which country launched exercise "Sea Vigil"?

**Answer :** India

**Explanation :**

- **Indian Navy** commenced largest ever coastal defence exercise **SEA VIGIL** in Indian Coast. Sea Vigil Exercise was a tri service exercise **TROPEX (Theatre-level Readiness Operational Exercise)** which is conducted by Indian Navy in every 2 years.
- The Exercise will strengthen the national security as it gave a realistic assessment of strengths and weaknesses. The aim of the Exercise Sea Vigil is to validate the effectiveness of measures taken since terror attack in Mumbai on 26/11.

4. Name the policy would soon unveil by state government to give a boost to electric vehicles manufacturing in the state?

**Answer :** e-vehicle policy

**Explanation :**

- Tamil Nadu Government organised the 2nd edition of Global Investor summit in Chennai. This summit is to be concluded on January 24, 2019 .
- The state government would soon unveil **e-vehicle policy** to give a boost to electric vehicles manufacturing in the state.



5. Name the woman squad launched by Northeast Railway to enhance security of women in railway station?

**Answer :** JOYMATI BAHINI

**Explanation :**

- The Northeast Railway sector has launched a dedicated woman squad '**JOYMATI BAHINI**' to enhance security of women in railway station and trains. this has been launched in **Kamakhya station of Guwahati**.
- The 'Joymati Bahini' was launched recently by NF Railway's Inspector General and Principal Chief Security Commissioner **B B Mishra**.

6. How many Kilometers from Dilshad Garden to New Bus Adda was extended?

**Answer :** 9.41-km

**Explanation :**

- The Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** led Union Cabinet approved the extension of **9.41-km-long Delhi Metro corridor from Dilshad Garden to New Bus Adda in Ghaziabad**. The extension will form the second metro line in Ghaziabad and the first metro link connecting the **interiors of the city**.

### January 25

1. The military exercise "IAFTX 2019" will held in which city?

**Answer :** Pune

**Explanation :**

- With the aim to synergise humanitarian mine action and joint peace operations, the **Indian Africa Field Training Exercise (IAFTX) will be held in Pune** from March 18 to 27.
- Delegates from Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, South Africa, Tanzania, Namibia, Mozambique, Uganda, Niger and Zambia are attending the conference.

2. Who launched new e-commerce platform 're-weave.in' under project ReWeave?

**Answer :** Microsoft India

**Explanation :**

- **Microsoft India** launched a new e-commerce platform '**re-weave.in**' under **project ReWeave** to aid handloom weavers. The e-commerce platform would connect artisans to the buyers directly enabling them to expand to newer customers and markets.
- Project ReWeave was initiated by **Microsoft India (R&D) Pvt. Limited** in 2016 as part of its Philanthropies efforts, with the aim to revive the handloom weaving ecosystem in India.

3. Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba commissioned new Naval Air Base 'INS KOHASSA' at Diglipur, in \_\_\_\_\_?

**Answer :** Andaman and Nicobar Islands

**Explanation :**

- Navy Chief Admiral **Sunil Lanba** will commission the new **Naval Air Base 'INS Kohassa' at Diglipur in Andaman and Nicobar Islands**. The airbase will be used to handle operations of helicopters and small aircraft like the Dornier.

4. In which city Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana** under which a group of Indian diaspora will be taken on a government-sponsored tour of religious places in India twice a year.
- All people of Indian-origin aged **45 to 65** can apply and a group will be selected out of them with first preference given to people from '**Girmitiya countries**' such as **Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica**.

5. Who approved the creation of the GSTAT?

**Answer :** Shri Narendra Modi

**Explanation :**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** approved the creation of the **National Bench of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)** to ensure better resolution of GST-related disputes. The National Bench would be set up in **New Delhi**.
- The main objective to create the bench is to fast-track the process of GST-related dispute resolution and hear appeals related to disputes between states, as well as disputes between the Centre and states.

### **January 26**

1. Where was the National Conference for Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) held ?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of skill development implemented **new reforms for Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) to enhance skill ecosystem and entrepreneurship in most of the remotest areas of India under centre's flagship programme Skill India** at the **National Conference for Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) in New Delhi**.

2. Where did the Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2019 held?

**Answer :** Chennai

**Explanation :**

- The second edition of **Tamil Nadu** government's ambitious two-day **Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2019** which aimed at showcasing the state's potential business opportunities and wooing investment was inaugurated at Chennai Trade Centre, **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- The event had managed to exceed the target investment of Rs 2 lakh crore and has witnessed the signing of **304** Memorandums of Understanding (**MoUs**) worth **Rs 3.4 lakh crore** with promise of job opportunities for about **10.5 lakh** people in the state.

3. Who is the second South Africa's President?

**Answer :** Cyril Ramaphosa

**Explanation :**

- South Africa President **Cyril Ramaphosa** arrived in Delhi for his first state visit ahead of the **Republic Day celebration parade**, where he is the chief guest. Ramaphosa is **second** South Africa's President after Nelson Mandela to be the chief guest at the Republic Day parade.

4. Name the India's lightest ever satellite that was launched along with imaging satellite Microsat R using PSLV C44?

**Answer :** Kalamsat

**Explanation :**

- **India** opened the year's space campaign by putting into orbit defence imaging satellite "**Microsat R**" for the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and students-built nano-satellite "**Kalamsat**" in a copy book style.
- **India** has successfully launched its **46th flight of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C44)** carrying **Kalamsat**, a communication satellite developed by students and India's military satellite **Microsat-R** from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota**.

5. India and which other country have agreed to set up an "Energy Banking" mechanism that would help the Himalayan country export its surplus electricity?

**Answer :** Nepal

**Explanation :**

- **Nepal and India** have agreed to set up an '**Energy Banking**' mechanism that would help the Himalayan country export its surplus electricity to neighbour India during the monsoon season and import power during its lean season in winter.
- The agreement on the 'Energy Banking' mechanism was arrived at during a meeting between the Nepali and Indian Energy Secretaries in Pokhara.

6. Which state government has decided to form a "State Tiger Protection Force" to save the Big Cat population in the State?

**Answer :** Telangana

**Explanation :**

- **The Telangana government** has decided to form a '**State Tiger Protection Force**' to save the Big Cat population in the State. The 112-member-armed STPF will be headed by an Assistant Conservator of Forests to protect tiger population in **Amarabad and Kawal Tiger Reserves**.

## **January 27**

1. Where did the Technical Advisory Group of National Informatics Centre inaugurate?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of National Informatics Centre (NIC) inaugurated a **two-day Technology Conclave in New Delhi**.
- The theme of the conclave was "**Technologies for Next Gen Governance**". It concluded on 23rd January, 2019.

2. Which state launched "Yuva Swabhiman Yojana"?

**Answer :** Madhya Pradesh

**Explanation :**

- On the occasion of Republic Day, **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister **Kamal Nath** announced the launch of the '**Yuva Swabhiman Yojana**' for youths from the economically weaker sections in urban areas.
- Under this scheme, **100 days** of employment will be provided to youths from economically weaker sections in urban areas. They will also be given skill training.

3. Which word was listed as Hindi word of the year 2018 by Oxford Dictionaries?

**Answer :** Nari Shakti

**Explanation :**

- **Oxford Dictionaries** announced that '**Nari Shakti**' as its **Hindi Word of the Year for 2018** at the ongoing **Jaipur Literature Festival**. The Hindi Word of the Year is a word or expression that has attracted a great deal of attention and reflects the ethos, mood or preoccupations of the past year.
- Derived from Sanskrit, Nari means 'woman' and Shakti means 'power'. Today the term is used to symbolise women taking charge of their own lives.

4. Amul launched Camel milk for the first time in the brand name of 'Amul Camel Milk' in selective areas of which state?

**Answer :** Gujarat

**Explanation :**

- Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd, venture of dairy brand **Anand Milk Union Limited or Amul** has launched the Camel milk first time in the brand name of '**Amul Camel Milk**' in selective areas of Gujarat.
- Initially 'Amul Camel Milk' will be launched in areas like **Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad and the Kutch of Gujarat**.

5. Who inaugurate the newly built, 5.1 km long, four-lane, cable stayed bridge over river Mandovi in Goa?

**Answer :** Shri Narendra Modi

**Explanation :**

- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri **Nitin Gadkari** will inaugurate the newly built, **5.1 km long, four-lane, cable stayed bridge over river Mandovi in Goa**.
- It will facilitate routing of Mumbai bound traffic coming in from **Bangalore via Ponda route and Old Goa towards NH-17**, bypassing the main **Panjim City**.

6. Who launched three important centres at IIT Madras in Chennai?

**Answer :** Dr. Harsh Vardhan

**Explanation :**

- Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment, Forests & Climate Change, **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** launched three important centres at IIT Madras in **Chennai**.
- The first centre was **DST –IITM Solar Energy Harnessing Centre** which would focus on a wide range of research activities such as silicon solar cells that would provide high efficiency in India.



## January 28

1. Recently, "Train 18", India's first indigenous semi-high speed train was renamed as?

**Answer :** Vande Bharat Express

**Explanation :**

- Highlighting the success of Make in India and contribution of Indian workers, Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal, **renamed** India's first indigenous semi-high speed train '**Train 18**' as '**Vande Bharat Express**'.
- **Vande Bharat Express** will run from **Delhi to Varanasi** taking stops at Kanpur and Prayagraj.

2. What are the different mediums rolled for e-courts services?

**Answer :** Email, SMS, Mobile App

**Explanation :**

- Department of Justice (DoJ) has decided to deliver e-courts services to the litigant public through around two lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs) so as to provide efficient and time bound access to the Courts services.
- e-courts services are rolled through digital mediums like Email, SMS, Mobile App and some other platforms.

3. Who constituted a new five-judge committee to hear upon the politically sensitive Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid?

**Answer :** Supreme Court

**Explanation :**

- Supreme Court constituted a new **five-judge committee** to hear upon the politically sensitive **Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land title dispute in Ayodhya**.
- The new committee members are **Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S.A. Bobde, D.Y. Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S.A. Nazeer. Justices Bhushan and Nazeer** are the new members in the bench.

4. 'Operation Olympics' commenced in \_\_\_\_\_ on 25th January 2019, to train 123 athletes in 11 disciplines for 2020 Tokyo Olympics?

**Answer :** Kerala

**Explanation :**

- An expert programme '**Operation Olympics**' managed by **Kerala's** Sports Department and State Sports Council was commenced to train 123 athletes in 11 disciplines for **2020 Tokyo Olympics**.
- The programme has the objective to provide international standard training to the athletes with the help of eminent trainers from both India and abroad.

5. Who said it will be taking an "in-chamber" decision on the listing of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of Article 35-A,?

**Answer :** Supreme Court

**Explanation :**

- The Supreme Court said it will be taking an "**in-chamber**" **decision** on the listing of petitions challenging the **constitutional validity of Article 35-A**, which provides special rights and privileges to permanent residents of **Jammu and Kashmir**.

- The oral observation came from a **Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi** in response to an oral mentioning for early hearing of the petitions.

### **January 29**

1. Name the app launched on the occasion of the 70th Republic day?

**Answer :** 'RDP INDIA 2019'

**Explanation :**

- People can watch the highlights of this year's **Republic Day parade at the Rajpath on a mobile application** which has been launched by the **Defence Ministry**.
- **The 'RDP INDIA 2019'** app was launched on the occasion of the **70th Republic day**. This new initiative is in sync with the Digital India campaign of the government.

2. When did the National Voters Day is observed?

**Answer :** 25th January every year

**Explanation :**

- **The Chief Election Commissioner of India, Sunil Arora and Election Commissioner Shri Ashok Lavasa** inaugurated an International Conference on 'Making our Elections Inclusive and Accessible "on the occasion of 9th National Voters Day held 'in **New Delhi**.
- **National Voters Day** is observed on **25th January every year**. Theme of 2019 voters day is **"My Vote Matters"**

3. Name the project announced by Naveen Patnaik for partnership with UNICEF India?

**Answer :** Jiban Sampark

**Explanation :**

- The Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri **Naveen Patnaik** announced **"Jiban Sampark"** Project in partnership with **UNICEF India** (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) during after inauguration of Tribal Fair also known as **"Adivasi Mela"** on Republic day.
- The Project was announced to spread awareness about the development and welfare initiatives of state government among the particularly vulnerable Tribal Groups of the state.

4. Name the app that will be launch soon to provide regular pension to Non Resident Keralites?

**Answer :** Pravasi Dividend Pension Scheme

**Explanation :**

- Kerala's **Governor P. Sathasivam** in his address to the state assembly announced Kerala government will soon launch a **'Pravasi Dividend Pension Scheme'** to provide regular pension to Non Resident Keralites. This scheme is a part of welfare measures towards **Pravasi Malayalis**.

### **January 30**

1. Who developed Tulip Garden in Uttarakand?

**Answer :** ONGC

**Explanation :**

- **The government of Uttarakhand** has obtained the permission to develop the **tulip garden** over 50 hectares of forest land in **Pithoragarh district** at a cost of **Rs 50 crore**. The Tulip Garden will be developed by **ONGC**.
- It will be the **second Tulip garden in the country** after the one located in Srinagar of Jammu and Kashmir.

2. Civil Aviation ministry launched India's first Geographical Indication (GI) store at Dabolim International Airport in which state?

**Answer :** Goa

**Explanation :**

- Union Civil Aviation minister **Suresh Prabhu** inaugurated **India's 1st Geographical Indication store at Goa International Airport in Dabolim**. The store is located on the first floor on Departure Terminal, and jointly set up by **Airports Authority of India** and **The Cashew Export Promotional Council of India**.
- The Union Minister informed that currently there are **270 GI** registered products in the country and the store will be a boon for the global tourists.

3. How much % GST has been reduced for Haj?

**Answer :** 18% to 5%

**Explanation :**

- Union Minister for Minority Affairs **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** stated that **GST on Haj** has been reduced from **18% to 5%** and this will significantly lower the airfare thus saving Haj pilgrims' **113 crore** rupees this year.
- Mr. Naqvi also stated that for the first time since the independence 2,340 women from India will go on 2019 Haj without Mehram.

4. Who dedicated Kochi Refinery project and IOCL LPG Bottling Plant to the Nation in Kochi, Kerala?

**Answer :** Narendra Modi

**Explanation :**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated **Kochi Refinery project and IOCL LPG Bottling Plant to the Nation in Kochi, Kerala**. Prime Minister also laid a foundation stone for Petrochemical Complex.
- PM also laid the foundation stone for Skill Development Institute at Ettumanoor. He laid the foundation stone of **AIIMS in Tamil Nadu's Madurai**.

5. Where did the IAFTX2019 was conducted?

**Answer :** Pune, Maharashtra

**Explanation :**

- The final planning conference to work out the modalities for **Indian Africa Field Training Exercise (IAFTX)-2019** was conducted at **Pune, Maharashtra**. The joint training exercise is being conducted with more than a dozen African countries & India.
- It aims at synergising humanitarian mine action and joint peace operations. The initial planning conference for the exercise was held in December 2018.

## January 31

1. Name the tests conducted for 15-year-old students in reading, mathematics, science and collaborative problem solving?

**Answer :** Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

**Explanation :**

- The Programme for International Student Assessment (**PISA**) tests the learning levels of **15-year-old students** in reading, mathematics, science and collaborative problem solving and is conducted by **OECD** every three years. During this inauguration, Recommendation of **5th Dean Committee** have been implemented in all the Agricultural Universities.
- To enhance the participation of students in agricultural business, **READY (Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojana)** is provided to the UG students.

2. Where did the Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the National Salt Satyagraha Memorial was held?

**Answer :** Dandi in Gujarat

**Explanation :**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** dedicated to the nation the **National Salt Satyagraha Memorial at Dandi in Gujarat on Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary on 30 January**. The memorial has statues of **Mahatma Gandhi** and 80 Satyagrahis who had marched with him during the historic Dandi Salt March.
- It also has 24-narrative murals depicting various events and stories from the historic **1930 Salt March**.

3. Which government launched a special scheme to curb infant deaths?

**Answer :** Maharashtra government

**Explanation :**

- **The Maharashtra government** launched a special scheme to curb infant deaths. Child Development Minister Pankaja Munde distributed baby-care kits to the children born in primary health centres and government hospitals.
- The scheme is applicable only for the first child and will benefit around four lakh women across the state, Women.

4. Who announced Free education provided to girls in Rajasthan from July?

**Answer :** Bhanwar Singh Bhati

**Explanation :**

- **Free education will be provided to girls** in state-run institutions in Rajasthan from **July**, Higher Education Minister **Bhanwar Singh Bhati** said. Also, the female students in colleges will be given sanitary napkins free of cost.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

## January 1

1. Who won the Bangladesh's election with a thumping majority?

**Answer :** Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's alliance



**Explanation :**

- **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's alliance** won **Bangladesh's election** with a thumping majority, the country's Election Commission announced. It gave her a third straight term following a vote that the opposition rejected as rigged.

**January 2**

1. Who are officially quit the UNESCO?

**Answer :** USA and Israel

**Explanation :**

- **The United states of America (USA)** and **Israel** officially quit the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** amid concerns that the organization fosters anti-Israel bias.
- UNESCO was established in 1945 after the end of world war II to foster peace and it is best known for its World Heritage programs which designates cultural sites and aims to preserve traditions.

**January 3**

1. Which tropical storm recently hit Philippines on Christmas Day?

**Answer :** Usman

**Explanation :**

- **Tropical Storm Usman**, which entered the Philippines on Christmas Day, emerged as the deadliest weather disaster for the country this year following Typhoon Mangkhut in September.

2. Who has withdrawn its membership from Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?

**Answer :** Qatar

**Explanation :**

- **Qatar** has withdrawn its membership from **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)**. The country had sent an official notification to the OPEC expressing its wish to **pull out** and to **focus on its liquefied natural gas production** in December.

**January 4**

1. Name the Law signed by US president?

**Answer :** 'Asia Reassurance Initiative Act'

**Explanation :**

- US president has signed the '**Asia Reassurance Initiative Act**'. The law aims at countering the **encroaching influence and growing threat** from China, and to **reinvigorate U.S. leadership in Asia**.
- The act aims to establish a multifaceted U.S. strategy to increase U.S. security, **economic interests, and values in the Indo-Pacific region**.

**January 5**

1. Who has become the first women amputee to climb Mount Vinson(Highest peak of Antarctica)?

**Answer :** Arunima Sinha

**Explanation :**

- Setting a first-of-its-kind record, **Indian mountaineer 30-year-old Arunima Sinha** became the **first female** amputee to climb **Mount Vinson**, the highest peak of **Antarctica**.
- She was also the world's **first woman amputee** to climb Mount Everest.

### **January 6**

1. Which country declared the ancient Hindu religious site of Panj Tirath as national heritage?

**Answer :** Pakistan

**Explanation :**

- The provincial **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** government in northwest Pakistan has declared the ancient Hindu religious site of **Panj Tirath** in the provincial capital **Peshawar** as national heritage.
- 'Panj Tirath' is named for the five pools of water present at the site and houses a Hindu temple "Shawal Thakardawara" and a lawn with date palm trees.

### **January 7**

1. Which council approved an anti-money laundering bill to ease trade?

**Answer :** Expediency Council

**Explanation :**

- Iranian council known as the **Expediency Council** approved an anti-money laundering bill to ease trade. This bill will be in line with the standards set by the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**.
- Iran is alone with North Korea on the FATF's blacklist — although the Paris-based organisation has suspended counter-measures since June 2017 while Iran works on reforms.

### **January 8**

1. Who inaugurated the newly-built Cathedral of Nativity on the eve of Coptic Christmas?

**Answer :** President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi

**Explanation :**

- Egypt opened West Asia's largest cathedral in its **New Administrative Capital**, 45 kms away from its capital, Cairo.
- **President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi** inaugurated the newly-built Cathedral of Nativity on the eve of **Coptic Christmas**.

2. Who passed law to make Islam compatible with socialism and 'sinicize' it within next five years?

**Answer :** China

**Explanation :**

- **China** passed law to make Islam compatible with socialism and 'sinicize' it within next **five years**. The law was passed after Chinese government officials met representatives from eight Islamic groups.

### **January 9**

1. Former Group President Jim Yong Kim resigned recently. He was the former president of which organization?

**Answer :** World Bank

**Explanation :**

- World Bank President, **Jim Yong Kim** has made the surprise announcement that he is stepping down after six years in the post. His resignation will take effect from 1 February.
- **Kristalina Georgieva**, the World Bank's chief executive officer, will assume the role of interim president.

### **January 10**

1. Name the Global Report released by UN office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)?

**Answer :** "Trafficking in Persons"

**Explanation :**

- UN office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released a latest Global Report on "**Trafficking in Persons**", which reveals that the number of human trafficking victims around the world is on the rise while armed groups and terrorists are trafficking women and children to generate funds and recruit.
- Trafficking for sexual exploitation is the most prevalent form in European countries, whilst in **sub-Saharan Africa** and the Middle East, forced labour is the main factor driving the illicit trade.

### **January 11**

1. Where did the first India-Central Asia Dialogue will be held?

**Answer :** Samarkand, Uzbekistan

**Explanation :**

- The first **India-Central Asia Dialogue** will be held in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan** on January 12 and 13. The Dialogue will be co-chaired by External Affairs Minister (EAM) **Sushma Swaraj** and the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, **Abdulaziz Kamilov**.

2. What is the rank of India in the Henley Passport Index of most powerful passports?

**Answer :** 79th rank

**Explanation :**

- **According to Henley Passport Index**, which keeps in record and analyses of every country's travel afford revealed a report of powerful passport holding country, in which **Japan has retained its position to the top for the consecutive year and India has leaped two steps forward to 79th rank.** A total of 190 countries are analyzed here.

### **January 12**

1. What is the rank of India in the 11th edition of EIU Democracy Index 2018?

**Answer :** 42

**Explanation :**

- The **11th edition of EIU Democracy Index 2018** was released by the **Economist Intelligent Unit** compiling the state of democracies in 167 countries in the world. The Index was started in **2006**.

- India got a rank of 42 falling in the '**Flawed Democracy**' category. Among the 167 nations, **Norway** topped the charts. It was followed by: Iceland (2), Sweden (3), New Zealand (4) and Denmark (5) closing off the top 5 rankings.

2. Who notified the United Nations secretary-general about the Government's decision?

**Answer :** Sandra Jovel

**Explanation :**

- The Foreign Minister of Guatemala **Sandra Jovel** notified the United Nations secretary-general about the Government's decision to terminate the agreement which established the **International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG)**.

### **January 13**

1. Where was the round of a 2+2 Inter-Sessional meeting held?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- The inaugural round of a **2+2 Inter-Sessional meeting** between the **United States** and **India** which focused on the progress of defence and foreign policy issues between the two countries took place in **New Delhi**.

### **January 14**

1. Who embarked on a two-day visit to Uzbekistan?

**Answer :** Sushma Swaraj

**Explanation :**

- **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** embarked on a **two-day visit to Uzbekistan**. Mrs. Swaraj will be in Samarkand for the **First India-Central Asia Dialogue** which she will co-chair with Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov.
- The Foreign Minister of Afghanistan will participate in the Dialogue as a special invitee for the session dedicated to connectivity issues in the region.

### **January 15**

1. Macedonia was renamed as?

**Answer :** Republic of North Macedonia

**Explanation :**

- Macedonia's parliament passed an amendment to the constitution to rename the country as **Republic of North Macedonia**, on a mutual agreement with Greece to put an end to a **27-year rivalry**.
- The agreement was reached between **Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras** and his **Macedonian counterpart Zoran Zaev**. The language of the country would be referred to as **Macedonian** and its people known as **Macedonians**.

### **January 16**

1. Where did the 'IMBEX 2018-19' commenced?



**Answer:** Chandimandir military station

**Explanation:**

- The second India-Myanmar bilateral Army exercise '**IMBEX 2018-19**' commenced at **Chandimandir military station** near Chandigarh.
- During the exercise, focus will be on training the Myanmar Army on tactics, procedures, expertise and methodology required by the contingent of the member nations for serving in UN peacekeeping operations.

### **January 17**

1. Who released its 14th edition of annual Global Risk Report 2019?

**Answer :** World Economic Forum

**Explanation :**

- The **World Economic Forum** released its **14th edition** of annual **Global Risk Report 2019** ahead of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos.
- The report's findings are based on the annual **Global Risks Perception Survey**, which asks the Forum's network of business, government, civil society and thought leaders to gauge the risks facing our world.

### **January 18**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ emerged as the world's most dynamic city in the 6th City Momentum Index, released by property consultant JLL?

**Answer:** Bengaluru

**Explanation:**

- According to the 6th City Momentum Index, released by property consultant JLL, **Bengaluru** has emerged as the **world's most dynamic city** with a robust technology and innovation ecosystem in place. The report is titled: '**JLL City Momentum: The World's Top 20 Most Dynamic Cities**'.
- Among other Indian cities, **Hyderabad** ranked **second** with **Delhi at fourth, Pune at fifth, Chennai at seventh** and **Kolkata at fifteenth** position featuring in top **20** cities.

### **January 19**

1. Where was the 7th Meeting of Tourism Ministers of ASEAN-India held?

**Answer :** Ha Long City in VietNam

**Explanation :**

- Union Tourism Minister **K. J. Alphons** co-chaired the 7th Meeting of Tourism Ministers of **ASEAN-India** with Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam, **Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thien**. The Meeting was held in **Ha Long City in Viet Nam**.
- Tourism Ministers welcomed the decision of ASEAN-India Informal summit which was held on 15 November 2018 and launched **ASEAN-India Tourism Cooperation Year 2019**.

### **January 20**

1. Abbreviation for ICMEI?

**Answer:** International Chamber of Media and Entertainment Industry (ICMEI)

**Explanation:**

- The **Embassy of Mongolia and International Chamber of Media and Entertainment Industry (ICMEI)**, India have further strengthened the relationship between India and Mongolia by signing a MoU in the field of **art and culture**.
- **India has** signed a long-term contract **with Uzbekistan** for **supply of uranium ore concentrates** to widen its source base for the nuclear fuel.

### January 21

1. Who is likely to surpass the United Kingdom in the world's largest economy rankings in 2019?

**Answer:** India

**Explanation:**

- **India** is likely to surpass the United Kingdom in the **world's largest economy rankings in 2019**, to become world's fifth largest economy, according to a report by global consultancy firm PwC.
- As per the report, while the UK and France have regularly switched places owing to similar levels of development and roughly equal populations, India's climb up the rankings is likely to be permanent.

2. Who took over the chairmanship of the Group of 77 from Arab Republic of Egypt?

**Answer:** Palestine

**Explanation:**

- **Palestine** took over the chairmanship of the **Group of 77** from **Arab Republic of Egypt**.
- The main functions of G 77 are to promote **collective economic interests and enhance joint negotiating capacity with UN Agencies** and to promote **South-South cooperation for development**.

### January 22

1. What is the theme of Globalization 4.0?

**Answer :** Shaping a Global Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution

**Explanation :**

- The 48th **WEF –World Economic Forum** annual meet had begun in **Davos, Switzerland**.
- '**Globalization 4.0: Shaping a Global Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution**' is the theme of the event.

2. Where did the 4th edition of Arab Economic and Social Development Summit held?

**Answer :** Lebanon capital Beirut

**Explanation :**

- The 4th edition of **Arab Economic and Social Development Summit** held in **Lebanon capital Beirut**.
- The summit aimed to make a joint statement on a 29-item agenda that ranges from discussions on an Arab free trade zone and the economic effect of Syrian refugees on host countries.

### January 23

1. Who are signed a MoU to provide modern infrastructural facilities to Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies of Eastern University in Batticaloa district?

**Answer:** India and Sri Lanka

**Explanation:**

- **India and Sri Lanka** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to provide modern **infrastructural facilities to Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies of Eastern University in Batticaloa district of Sri Lanka**.
- The project involves refurbishment of the auditorium and construction of a modern building complex with recording cum editing facilities and supply vehicles to the institute through a grant of over 27 crore Sri Lankan rupees from the Government of India.

### **January 24**

1. Who is the main Indian Coast Guard Ship taking part in the drills?

**Answer :** ICGS Shaunak

**Explanation :**

- Indian and Japanese Coast Guards started disaster, search and rescue exercises off the coast of Yokohama in Japan. **ICGS Shaunak** is the main Indian Coast Guard Ship taking part in the drills.

2. What is the score of India among the world's most innovative countries according to the Bloomberg 2019 Innovative Index?

**Answer :** 47.93

**Explanation :**

- India has been ranked in the Bloomberg Innovation Index. **India** is ranked at the **54th Position** with a score of **47.93** out of 100 among the world's most innovative countries according to the **Bloomberg 2019 Innovative Index**.
- **South Korea** has retained its top spot with a score of 87.38, **Germany** ranked second with a score of 87.30.

### **January 25**

1. Where did the World's longest 3D printed concrete bridge located?

**Answer :** Wenzao ang River in Shanghai

**Explanation :**

- World's longest 3D printed concrete bridge was opened in china. It is located on the **Wenzaob ang River in Shanghai**. The newly-opened bridge is made with a technology that supplies data and also vibrating wire **stress sensors**.
- The bridge is of **26.3 metre-long** and **3.6-metre-wide** and is made out of 44 hollowed-out 3D printed concrete blocks.

2. Which organization is in collaboration with international labour organisation (ILO)?

**Answer :** WHO

**Explanation :**

- WHO in collaboration with international labour organisation (ILO) to for a global committee to work and implement the fundamental changes in health at work.
- WHO with the support of ILO and OECD implemented the five-year '**Working for Health**', global action plan that would ensure the necessary workforce for universal health coverage and stimulating economic growth.

### January 26

1. Which country's government declared sugarcane juice as the "national drink" of the country?

**Answer :** Pakistan government

**Explanation :**

- **The Pakistan government declared sugarcane juice as the "national drink"** of the country. The announcement came after the government conducted a Twitter poll where people were asked to decide on the country's national drink with two other options orange and carrot besides sugarcane.

### January 27

1. Which government has made an announced of a research project to study Nitrogen pollution in India and South Asia?

**Answer :** United Kingdom (UK)

**Explanation :**

- **United Kingdom (UK)** government has made an announced of a research project to study **Nitrogen** pollution in **India** and **South Asia**. **South Asian Nitrogen Hub** will be led by United Kingdom's "**Centre for Ecology and Hydrology**" under the new partnership programme.
- The Project will include 50 organizations from across the United Kingdom (UK) and South Asia.

### January 28

1. Who was elected as Malaysia's new king by the members of the country's royal families?

**Answer :** Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah

**Explanation :**

- **Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah** was elected as **Malaysia's new king by the members of the country's royal families**. The 59-year-old was earlier appointed the Sultan of the Malaysian state of Pahang.
- **He replaced Sultan Muhammad V of Kelantan**, who stepped down recently, making it the first abdication in Malaysia's history.

### January 29

1. Where is the Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies of Eastern University located?

**Answer :** Batticaloa district of Sri Lanka

**Explanation :**

- **India** and **Sri Lanka** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide modern infrastructural **facilities to Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies of Eastern University** in Batticaloa district of Sri Lanka.

### January 30

1. Name the digital currency launched by central banks of the UAE and Saudi Arabia?

**Answer :** "Aber"



**Explanation :**

- **The central banks of the UAE and Saudi Arabia** have launched a common digital currency called “**Aber**”, which will be used in financial settlements between the two countries through Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers technologies.
- Through this digital currency, both the **United Arab Emirates Central Bank (UAECB)** and the **Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA)** are studying the impact on the improvement and reduction of remittance costs and the assessments of risks.

**January 31**

1. Which country has improved its ranking on a global corruption index in 2018?

**Answer :** India

**Explanation :**

- **India has improved its ranking on a global corruption index in 2018**, while its neighbour China lagged far behind, according to the annual index released by an anti-graft watchdog.
- **India rose by three points to 78** in the list of 180 countries in the world, while China ranked 87 and Pakistan 117 in 2018, **the Transparency International** said in its **Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2018**.

**SPORTS NEWS**

**January 1**

1. Sports Ministry has allotted \_\_\_\_\_ rupees for the funding of athletes under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)?

**Answer :** Rs 100 crore

**Explanation :**

- The **Sports Authority of India** Director General **Neelam Kapur** announced that The Sports Ministry has earmarked Rs 100 crore for the funding of athletes under the **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)** for their preparations for 2020 Olympics.

2. Who became the highest international wicket-taker of 2018 with 78 wickets?

**Answer :** Jasprit Bumrah

**Explanation :**

- 25 years old Indian fast bowler **Jasprit Bumrah** became the highest international wicket-taker of 2018 with **78 wickets** after taking 9 wickets in the 3rd Test Match against Australia held in Melbourne Cricket Ground, Australia.

**January 2**

1. Who won Mubadala World Tennis Championship 2018?

**Answer :** Novak Djokovic

**Explanation :**

- **Serbia's Novak Djokovic** defeated defending champion Kevin Anderson of South Africa 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 to win the **Mubadala World Tennis Championship for the fourth time at Abu Dhabi International Tennis Centre, Abu Dhabi**.

### January 3

1. Who are won the 10th RR Lakshya Cup 2018 in senior and junior category?

**Answer :** Divyansh Singh Panwar & Nupur Patil

**Explanation :**

- Shooter **Divyansh Singh Panwar** from Rajasthan and shooter **Nupur Patil** from Maharashtra have won 10th RR Lakshya Cup 2018 in senior and junior category respectively. Dronacharya Awardee and former National Coach **Prof. Sunny Thomas** was the chief guest of the event.

### January 4

1. How many crore has earmarked by Sports ministry for funding the athletes under the TOPS?

**Answer :** Rs. 100 crore

**Explanation :**

- Sports ministry has earmarked **Rs. 100 crore for funding the athletes under the (TOPS) Target Olympic Podium Scheme** ahead of 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.
- The scheme was launched in September 2014 to provide financial assistance to potential Olympic medal winners.

### January 5

1. Which Indian batsman becomes the fastest batsman to reach 19000 international runs?

**Answer :** Virat Kohli

**Explanation :**

- 30 years old Indian cricket team captain, **Virat Kohli** beats Cricketing legend **Sachin Tendulkar's** to become the **fastest batsman to score 19000 international runs** on the 1st day of 4th Test Match in Sydney against Australia.

### January 6

1. Where did the 80th National Table Tennis Championship begin?

**Answer :** Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack

**Explanation :**

- The **80th National Table Tennis Championship** began at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack. As many as 35 teams, including 550 players from different parts of the country are participating in the mega championship.

### January 7

1. Where did the Hopman Cup held, which is an annual international eight-team indoor hard court tennis tournament ?

**Answer :** Perth, Western Australia

**Explanation :**

- The **Hopman Cup** which is an annual international eight-team indoor hard court tennis tournament was held in **Perth, Western Australia**. It is a mixed competition in which male and female players are on combined teams and represent their countries. The Event was concluded on 5th January 2019.

2. Who won men's 2019 Brisbane International title?

**Answer :** Kei Nishikori

**Explanation :**

- World number nine **Kei Nishikori** defeated Daniil Medvedev of Russia in the summit clash to clinch the 2019 Brisbane International title (men).

### **January 8**

1. Who is the highest international wicket-taker of 2018?

**Answer :** Jasprit Bumrah

**Explanation :**

- Indian fast bowler **Jasprit Bumrah** finishes 2018 as the highest international wicket-taker of 2018 with **78 wickets** after taking 9 wickets in the 3rd Test Match against Australia held in Melbourne Cricket Ground, Australia.
- South African fast bowler **Kagiso Rabada** ranked 2nd in the list of Highest International wicket taker of 2018 with **77 wickets**.

2. Who won Maharashtra Open ATP 250 Doubles Tournament title?

**Answer :** Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan

**Explanation :**

- India's top-ranked doubles players **Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan won the Tata Open Maharashtra ATP 250 tournament** in Pune after beating a British pairing of Luke Bambridge and Jonny O'Mara in straight sets.

### **January 9**

1. Where will the second edition of the Khelo India Youth Games be held?

**Answer :** Pune Maharashtra

**Explanation :**

- **Maharashtra** is going to host the second edition of the **Khelo India Youth Games** which includes completions in 18 different disciplines at **Balewadi Sports Complex in Pune**. The event will conclude on 20th January 2019.
- Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) is a part **Khelo India** which is the revamped national programme for development of sports in India.

### **January 10**

1. Which country will host the African Cup for the fifth time in 2019, as announced by the Confederation of African Football's (CAF) Executive Committee?

**Answer :** Egypt

**Explanation :**

- **Confederation of African Football's (CAF) Executive Committee** announced that **Egypt** will host **African Cup** for the fifth time in 2019. South Africa was the other country who made a bid to host the event.

### **January 11**

1. Who has attained number one position in the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) latest world rankings?

**Answer :** M C Mary Kom

**Explanation :**

- 36 years old boxer, **M C Mary Kom** attained the **first position** in the latest ranking released by the **International Boxing Association (AIBA)** in the **Light Fly 45-48 kilograms** category with **1700 points**.

### January 12

1. Name the Indian Weightlifting Federation President who has been named as Chef de Mission for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics?

**Answer :** Birendra Prasad Baishya

**Explanation :**

- Indian Weightlifting Federation President **Birendra Prasad Baishya** is named as Chef de Mission for the **Tokyo 2020 Olympics**.
- Baishya is also one of the Indian Olympic Association Vice Presidents. Tokyo 2020 organizing committee president is **Yoshiro Mori**.

### January 14

1. Which state topped the medal tally with 37 golds at the Khelo India Youth Games in Pune?

**Answer :** Maharashtra

**Explanation :**

- **Maharashtra topped the medal tally with 37 golds** at the **Khelo India Youth Games in Pune**. It had 111 medals in its kitty with 37 gold, 31 silver and 43 bronze. Delhi was at second position with 35 gold and Haryana too maintains its third position with 29 gold.
- **10-year old Abhinav Shaw** became the **youngest gold medallist** in the shooting. He teamed up with Mehuli Ghosh to help West Bengal win the 10m air rifle mixed team event.

### January 15

1. Who set a world record in indoor rowing by completing 1,00,000 (one lakh) metres in 10 hours, in above-40 years category, at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata?

**Answer :** Shakil Ahmed

**Explanation :**

- Asian Cup gold medallist **Shakil Ahmed** set a world record in indoor rowing by completing **1,00,000 (one lakh) metres** in **10 hours**, in above-40 years category, at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.
- He also has the record of completing 50,000 metres of simulated rowing in four hours and 13 minutes which is already in the Limca Record Book.

### January 16

1. Who was named as new India's Women Boxing Coach?

**Answer :** Mohammed Ali Qamar

**Explanation :**



- **Mohammed Ali Qamar** was the man who brought India her first Commonwealth Games gold medal in boxing in 2002. Qamar has added another feather to his illustrious career as he takes over as chief coach for the country's women pugilists.
- Thus, he becomes the youngest ever to get the top job. He, thus, replaces veteran Shiv Singh.

### January 17

1. Who launched the 1st National Level Sports Meet for the students of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)?

**Answer :** Shri Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor

**Explanation :**

- **Shri Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor** Minister of State for Tribal Affairs launched the 1st National Level Sports Meet for the students of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) at G.M.C Balayogi Stadium, Gachibowli, Hyderabad.
- The Minister also launched an app '**EMRS Sports Meet**' dedicated on the occasion.

### January 18

1. Which country faced failure against Bahrain at the Sharjah Stadium?

**Answer :** India

**Explanation :**

- Stephen Constantine steps down as the head coach of the **Indian Football** team following the team's exit from 2019 **AFC** (Asian Football Confederation) Asian Cup. **India** faced failure against **Bahrain** at the **Sharjah Stadium**.
- This was Constantine's second regime as India's Head Coach after 2005. He returned to the hot seat in 2015, succeeding Dutch Wim Koevoets.

### January 19

1. Who became the first Indian and the first Asian batsman to score two double centuries after turning 40 in first-class cricket?

**Answer :** Wasim Jaffer

**Explanation :**

- The highest run-getter in the Ranji Trophy history, **Wasim Jaffer**, became the **first Indian** and the **first Asian** batsman to score **two double centuries** after turning 40 in first-class cricket.
- This was achieved in the Ranji Trophy quarter-final for **Vidarbha** against **Uttarakhand** in **Nagpur**.

### January 22

1. How many medals are won by Maharashtra in Khelo India Youth Games?

**Answer :** 228 medals

**Explanation :**

- The **Khelo India Youth Games** concluded at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Balewadi in Pune with the host **Maharashtra** leading the medals table by winning a mammoth **85 gold, 62 silver and 81 bronze** for a total of **228 medals** in the Games.
- With a total of 228 medals, hosts **Maharashtra** also walked away with the **Overall Trophy** at the Khelo India Youth Games.

### January 23

1. Who has become the first cricketer to win the Sir Garbfields Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year?

**Answer :** Virat Kohli

**Explanation :**

- Virat Kohli became the **first player** to bag all top three ICC Awards in a single year. He won the **Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year**, the **ICC Men's Test Player of the Year** and the **ICC ODI Player of the year** for his performance in 2018.

2. Who has been named the "International Cricket Council's (ICC) Emerging Player of the year" for his brilliant performance in Test Cricket in 2018?

**Answer :** Rishabh Pant

**Explanation :**

- 21-year Old Wicketkeeper batsman, **Rishabh Pant** was named the "**International Cricket Council (ICC) Emerging Player of the year**" for his brilliant performance in Test Cricket in 2018.

### January 24

1. Who has won the International Tennis Federation's 25,000-dollar Women's tournament in Singapore?

**Answer :** Ankita Raina

**Explanation :**

- **India's Ankita Raina** has won the **International Tennis Federation's 25,000-dollar Women's tournament in Singapore**. In the Final, Ankita defeated top seed **Arantxa Rus** of the **Netherlands**, 6-3, 6-2. She toppled four seeded players in the tournament to win her first title of the season and eighth overall.

### January 28

1. Who was crowned champion of the Indonesia Masters 2019?

**Answer :** Saina Nehwal

**Explanation :**

- Ace **Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal** was crowned champion of the **Indonesia Masters 2019** after her opponent Carolina Marin pulled out of the summit clash due to an injury.
- Saina was the runner-up in the 2018 edition of the Indonesia Masters.

2. Who run Australian Open tennis tournament?

**Answer :** International Tennis Federation (ITF)

**Explanation :**

- **The Australian Open** is a tennis tournament held annually in **Melbourne Park, Australia**. The tournament is run by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).
- **Novak Djokovic from Serbia** won the Men's Singles event and **Naomi Osaka of Japan** won the Women's singles event.

### January 29

1. Teenage batsman Rohit Paudel has become the youngest cricketer to score a half century in international cricket at the age of 16 years and 146 days. He hails from which country?

**Answer :** Nepal

**Explanation :**

- Nepal's **Rohit Paudel** became the youngest man to hit an international fifty. Rohit Paudel of Nepal scored 55 for Nepal in the 2nd ODI against **UAE** to become the youngest man to score a half-century in one-day internationals.

### January 30

1. Who won the New South Wales men's Amateur Golf Championship in Australia?

**Answer :** Kartik Sharma

**Explanation :**

- **India's Kartik Sharma** won the **New South Wales men's Amateur Golf Championship** in **Australia**. Kartik notched up a magnificent win over **Australia's Nathan Barberie** in the scheduled 36-hole final to emerge as champion.
- Kartik had also won the Indian golf union **western India amateur golf championship 2018**.

### January 31

1. Who won the round-the-world yacht race after 212 days?

**Answer :** Jean-Luc Van Den Heede

**Explanation :**

- French sailor **Jean-Luc Van Den Heede** has won the round-the-world yacht race after **212 days** alone at sea without modern instruments.
- The **73-year-old**, who completed his sixth circumnavigation of the globe, became the oldest to complete the **30,000-mile Golden Globe race**.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### January 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 :**

- The American space agency **NASA's New Horizons** spacecraft performed the farthest flyby in history as it approached the **Kuiper Belt** object **Ultima Thule**.

- **Ultima** is an object in the **Kuiper belt** which is a band of frozen material that orbits the Sun more than 2 billion km (1.25bn miles) further out than the **Neptune**; and 1.5 billion km beyond even the dwarf planet **Pluto**, which New Horizons visited in 2015.

#### **January 4**

1. What is WAND?

**Answer :** Wireless artifact-free neuromodulator device

**Explanation :**

- Scientists have developed a device named **WAND** which stands for “**Wireless artifact-free neuromodulator device**” that works like a “**Pacemaker for the brain**” to monitor the brain’s electrical activity and potentially deliver fine-tuned treatments to patients suffering from diseases like epilepsy and Parkinson’s.

2. Which Institute has developed a simple paper kit that can test freshness of milk and tell how well it has been pasteurized?

**Answer :** Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati

**Explanation :**

- Scientists at **Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati** have developed a simple paper kit that can test freshness of milk and tell how well it has been pasteurized.
- The kit is sided with smart phone app to ensure that milk is consumed before it turns too sour.

#### **January 6**

1. From which station Scientists from Washington University of United states of America (USA) successfully launched a telescope (X-Calibur instrument)?

**Answer :** McMurdo Station in Antarctica

**Explanation :**

- Scientists from **Washington University** of United states of America (USA) successfully launched a **telescope (X-Calibur instrument)** from the McMurdo Station in **Antarctica** that will analyze **X-rays** arriving from distant **neutron stars, black holes and other exotic celestial bodies**.

2. The tropical cyclone ‘Pabuk’ has recently occurred in which seashore?

**Answer :** Andaman Sea

**Explanation :**

- A warning was issued by **The India Meteorological Department (IMD)** that a Cyclonic storm “**PABUK**” over **Andaman Sea and neighbourhood** is moving towards west-northwestwards with a speed of 21 kmph.

#### **January 7**

1. Name the spacecraft made the first-ever soft landing on the far side of the moon?

**Answer :** Yutu-2 or Jade Rabbit-2 of the Chang’e-4

**Explanation :**



- Lunar rover **Yutu-2 or Jade Rabbit-2 of the Chang'e-4** spacecraft made the first-ever soft landing on the far side of the moon. Images were sent back to the Earth via the relay satellite '**Queqiao**'.
- China's lunar probe is a part of its '**Made in China 2025**' project. It follows a homegrown Chinese Global Positioning System named BeiDou Navigation Satellite System.

### **January 9**

1. Name the planet discovered by NASA's transiting exoplanet survey satellite (TESS)?

**Answer :** HD21749b

**Explanation :**

- **NASA's** transiting exoplanet survey satellite (TESS) has discovered a planet named **HD21749b** orbiting around the **star HD 21749**, which lies about **53 light years** from earth in the faint constellation reticulum. TESS does this work by carving the sky up into overlapping sectors, studying each one for 27 days at a time.
- It is a "sub Neptune", around three times bigger than earth and 23 times more massive than earth, which means it's likely gaseous rather than rocky.

### **January 10**

1. Which city traffic police launched a mobile application 'Police-E-Eye' for the public to report on traffic violations to police?

**Answer :** Coimbatore

**Explanation :**

- **Coimbatore** city traffic police launched a mobile application '**Police-E-Eye**' for the public to report on traffic violations to police and to keep a check on the same.
- The violations so filed can be photographed which will be sent to the police along with the location, time and date with the help of GPS.

### **January 11**

1. What stand for PNAS?

**Answer :** Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

**Explanation :**

- **IIT-Madras** team created '**space fuel**' by trapping **carbon dioxide** in crystalline form with the help of water molecules. This would in future help to curb greenhouse gases. This was made in vacuum, one thousand billion times below the atmospheric pressure called **ultra-high vacuum (UHV)** and temperature close to minus **263** degree Celsius.
- The Study was published in the journal **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)**.

### **January 12**

1. Who is the Chairman of Indian Space Research Organization?

**Answer :** K Sivan

**Explanation :**

- **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** chairman **K Sivan** announced that the

**1st Gaganyaan** manned mission to outer space would be launched by **December 2021**.

- Under Gaganyaan project, India is planning to send three astronauts to outer space for seven days and bring them back ISRO is conceiving a mission **to Venus by 2023**.

### January 13

1. When will launch Gaganyaan manned mission to outer space by ISRO?

**Answer :** December 2021

**Explanation :**

- **ISRO Chairman Dr. K Sivan stated** that the organisation is well prepared to meet the targets of launching Gaganyaan manned mission to outer space by **December 2021**.
- S332 launches are planned this year. Important among them are Chandrayaan -2 mission to the moon in mid-April. GSAT-20 Satellite for high bandwidth connectivity to be launched in September-October.

### January 14

1. What is the atomic number of Iridium?

**Answer :** 77

**Explanation :**

- The **SpaceX Falcon 9 launched 10** voice and data **satellites** for **Iridium Communications satellite**, which is an alternative for entire fleet with a new generation of orbiters. The constellation's name comes from the chemical element Iridium, which has **atomic number 77**.
- The satellites were launched into orbit on board Falcon 9 rocket from the Vandenberg Air Force station in California

### January 15

1. Name the road safety robot inducted by The Chennai Traffic Police?

**Answer :** December 2021

**Explanation :**

- The Chennai Traffic Police inducted a road safety robot into its fold. **Named ROADEO**, the robot will make the pedestrians, especially children; feel safe while crossing the roads.
- It will also ease the work of traffic police, as these robots can be integrated with the traffic signals, as well as can be operated manually, through a Bluetooth app.

### January 16

1. Which entity suggested that albumin can be a better indicator of diabetes?

**Answer :** Scientists at the National Chemical Laboratory, Pune

**Explanation :**

- Scientists at the **National Chemical Laboratory, Pune** suggested that albumin can be a better indicator of diabetes.
- This can be achieved based on measurements of levels of free albumin and albumin attached to glucose molecules in the blood. These albumin levels in blood influence glycation of haemoglobin which further helps in diagnosis of diabetes.

### January 17

1. What is SpaceX-CRS-16 Dragon?

**Answer : It is a Commercial Resupply Service mission** to the International Space Station launched by NASA

**Explanation :**

- The SpaceX-CRS-16 Dragon cargo craft departed from the International Space Station and making a remark as the first night splashdown and recovered the Dragon vehicle. SpaceX-CRS-16 Dragon transported more than **2,500 kilograms (5,600 pounds)** of cargo to the space station and orbited Earth for five weeks.
- SpaceX-CRS-16 Dragon is a **Commercial Resupply Service mission** to the International Space Station launched by NASA.

### January 18

1. Where did the World's first television channel dedicated to human rights launch?

**Answer : London**

**Explanation :**

- World's **first** television channel dedicated to **human rights** was launched in **London** by the **International Observatory of Human Rights (IOHR)**. It would be a web-based channel would bring human rights issues to audiences in over **20** countries across **Europe, Latin America and the Middle East**.
- Initially the programmes would be broadcasted in English but other languages including Farsi, Turkish, Arabic and Russian would be inducted in the future.

### January 19

1. How many satellites carried by Epsilon – 4 rocket launched by Japan?

**Answer : 7 satellites**

**Explanation :**

- **Japan** launched the **Epsilon – 4 rocket** carrying **7 satellites** developed by private sector companies and Universities from the **Uchinoura Space Center** in Kagoshima.
- The cost of launch which is roughly USD 50 million was borne by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) to promote and encourage space exploration by private sector in Japan.

### January 20

1. What stand for LCH?

**Answer : Light combat helicopter**

**Explanation :**

- **Light combat helicopter (LCH)**, has successfully **carried out air-to-air missile** firing on a moving aerial target at the integrated test range in **Chandipur on Odisha coast**.
- This **LCH is first in the country**, which is designed and developed by Rotary Wing Research & Design Centre (RWRDC), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

2. Which Navy inducted two - Fast Interceptor Craft (FIC) at Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu?

**Answer : Indian Navy**

**Explanation :**

- The **Indian Navy** inducted two - **Fast Interceptor Craft (FIC)** at **Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu**, to boost coastal security. The vessels were acquired for Sagar Prahari Bal, a unit of the Navy.
- The boats can carry a variety of armament from heavy machine guns to grenade launchers with the upper deck canopies bullet-proof.

**January 21**

1. Which country launched the Epsilon – 4 rocket carrying 7 satellites developed by private sector companies and Universities from the Uchinoura Space Center in Kagoshima?

Answer : Japan

**Explanation :**

- **Japan** launched the **Epsilon – 4 rocket** carrying 7 satellites developed by private sector companies and Universities from the Uchinoura Space Center in **Kagoshima**.
- The Epsilon series was developed in a bid to put small satellites into orbit at a low cost.

**January 22**

1. A powerful Delta 4 Heavy rocket carrying a U.S. spy satellite lifted off from which city?

Answer : California

**Explanation :**

- A powerful **Delta 4 Heavy rocket** carrying a **U.S.** spy satellite lifted off from California. The central core booster **Aerojet Rocket dyne RS-68A** engine continued fired until the upper stage single **RL10B-2** engine ignited to continue the climb to space.
- This was the second attempt after the launch was postponed because of a communication problem between the control center and the launch site.

**January 23**

1. Which State collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) recommended triple-drug therapy for lymphatic filariasis to speed up elimination of the disease in Nagpur?

Answer : Maharashtra

**Explanation :**

- **Maharashtra** in collaboration with World Health Organization (**WHO**) -recommended triple-drug therapy for lymphatic filariasis to speed up elimination of the disease in **Nagpur**. This disease is transmitted through mosquitoes.
- Actor **Swapnil Joshi** is assigned as brand ambassador for this project.

**January 24**

1. What is the use of Arrow 3 Missile?

Answer : It would help the Israel Military Force to attack their enemies from a greater distance and greater height.

**Explanation :**

- Israel successfully tested the Arrow 3 missile system from Central Israel, it is done in collaboration with American Missile Defense Agency.



- Arrow 3 is considered to be the next step in the defence system, which would help the Israel Military Force to attack their enemies from a greater distance and greater height.

### January 25

1. What is TUM?

Answer : Technical University of Munich

#### **Explanation :**

- Social media giant **Face book** announced that it will create an independent Institute for **Ethics in Artificial intelligence (AI)** with an initial investment of **\$7.5 million** over a period of five years.
- **Technical University of Munich (TUM)** in Germany will collaborate with this project which aims to explore fundamental issues affecting the use and impact of AI.

### January 26

1. Which entity launched Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LR-SAM) successfully?

Answer : Defence Research and Development Organization

#### **Explanation :**

- Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully launched Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LR-SAM) jointly developed by DRDO and **Israel Aerospace Industries** from INS Chennai off the coast of Odisha.
- LR-SAM will improve air defence capabilities. It also had a system which includes a Multi-Functional Surveillance and Threat Alert Radar (MF-STAR) for detection, tracking and guidance of the missile.

### January 27

1. What is the use of Roshni app launched in Chandigarh?

Answer : It would help the Visually Impaired to recognise currency notes

#### **Explanation :**

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar**, has developed an app **Roshni** that would help the Visually Impaired to recognise currency notes.
- The app can recognise both old and new notes and gives audio information as to which note you are holding in your hands. This app was launched in **Chandigarh**.

### January 28

1. What stand for NGRAM?

Answer : New Generation Anti-Radiation Missile

#### **Explanation :**

- India tested the new generation anti-radiation missile (NGRAM) which would destroy all the surveillance and radar systems. The missile is launched from Balasore.
- The Defence-Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has created this missile as a **surface to air** missile and is screened by **Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jet**.

## **AWARDS**

### January 1

1. Who was adjudged 'Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award for the Women's Cricketer of the Year' by the ICC?

**Answer :** Smriti Mandhana

**Explanation :**

- India Women Cricket team Vice-captain and Left-handed opener, **Smriti Mandhana** was adjudged '**Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award for the Women's Cricketer of the Year**' as well as the '**Women's ODI Player of the Year**' by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

2. Who will be honoured with the National Nritya Shiromani award?

**Answer :** Anindita Neogy Anaam

**Explanation :**

- US-based Kathak dancer **Anindita Neogy Anaam** will be honoured with the **National Nritya Shiromani award** for promoting the dance form across the world.
- This award of national repute has been given in the past to the outstanding Indian classical dance performers and musicians of India and abroad.

### January 2

1. Who received the Shankar Vaidya Shree Award?

**Answer :** Dr. Rajan Deshpande

**Explanation :**

- A Dharwad-based paediatrician, **Dr. Rajan Deshpande**, received the **Shankar Vaidya Shree Award** at the **19th** anniversary of the **Dr. P.S. Shankar Pratishthan** in Kalaburagi, Karnataka.
- He was honoured for his exemplary work in children's healthcare for 40 years.

### January 3

1. Which IIT professor was honoured with the National Geospatial Award for Excellence - 2017 ?

**Answer :** Jayanta Kumar Ghosh

**Explanation :**

- IIT Roorkee professor **Jayanta Kumar Ghosh** was facilitated with **the National Geospatial Award for Excellence -2017** (Life Time Achievement Award) by the **Indian Society for Remote Sensing** for his contribution towards the development of geospatial science and applications.
- The Indian Society for Remote Sensing is an organisation known in the area of space science, remote sensing and geo-spatial technology.

### January 4

1. Which Indian won two gold medals at the World Memory Championships held at Hong Kong?

**Answer :** Dhruv Manoj

**Explanation :**

- A 12-year-old Indian-origin student **Dhruv Manoj** from Singapore has bagged **two gold medals** at the **World Memory Championships** held in Hong Kong.
- Dhruv Manoj won in the “**names and faces**” and “**random words**” disciplines, beating 56 other contestants in the “kids category”.

### January 5

1. Who received the “Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja National Award for Lifetime Achievement” in literature?

**Answer :** Manoj Das

**Explanation :**

- **Manoj Das**, an eminent English and Odia Litterateur received the “**Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja National Award for Lifetime Achievement**” in literature during **53rd** Foundation day ceremony organized by the Berhampur University, Odisha.
- Manoj Sinha has been already honoured with Sahitya Akademi Award, Orissa. Sahitya Akademi award, Sarala Award, Sahitya Bharati Award and Padma Shri.

2. Who has been selected by the Indian Council for Child Welfare for receiving National Bravery Award?

**Answer :** Wahengbam Lamnganba Singh

**Explanation :**

- 15-year-old class IXth student, **Wahengbam Lamnganba Singh**, of Kumbi area in **Manipur**, has been selected by the **Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW)** for receiving **National Bravery Award**.

### January 6

1. Who received the ‘Central Board of Irrigation and Power Award-2019’?

**Answer :** Devineni Umamaheswar Rao

**Explanation :**

- The Water Resources Minister of Andhra Pradesh (AP), **Devineni Umamaheswar Rao** received the ‘**Central Board of Irrigation and Power Award-2019**’ for better planning and construction of **Polavaram Irrigation Project** on the Godavari River.
- AP Water Resources Minister, Rao received the award in the category of “Best Implementation of Water Resources Project”.

2. Who presented the prestigious 13th Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism awards?

**Answer :** Shri Rajnath singh

**Explanation :**

- Home Minister Shri **Rajnath singh** presented the prestigious 13th **Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism** awards to 29 winners in 18 categories across Print, Broad cast and purely digital to recognize the outstanding contributions of journalists in 2017 in **New Delhi**.

### January 7

1. **Who** was conferred with the lifetime achievement award?

**Answer :** Dinu Randive

**Explanation :**

- Veteran journalist **Dinu Randive** was conferred with **the lifetime achievement award** for his lifelong contributions in journalism, who started his journalistic career in 1956.
- He also participated in the freedom struggle, the Sanyukta Maharashtra movement and the Goa liberation movement.

**January 8**

1. 'National Conclave on Accomplishments and Way Forward for Textiles Sector' was held in?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- The Vice President of India, **Shri M Venkaiah Naidu** conferred awards on 17 persons for their outstanding contribution in different fields of textiles sector during the day long '**National Conclave on Accomplishments and Way Forward for Textiles Sector**' in New Delhi.
- The conclave was a part of a two-day event, on **5th – 6th January 2019** in New Delhi, to highlight the achievements of the textiles sector. The event was inaugurated with a textiles fashion show "**Artisan Speak**" at Red Fort.

2. Name the 2 veteran actors honour by Bimal Roy Memorial and Film Society?

**Answer :** Asha Parekh and Farooque Shaikh

**Explanation :**

- The **Bimal Roy Memorial and Film Society** announced that it would honour veteran actors **Asha Parekh** and **Farooque Shaikh** the event on **January 8, 2019**, commemorating **52nd** death anniversary of the renowned filmmaker.

**January 10**

1. Who was conferred with the 2018 Confederation of African Football Player of the Year award?

**Answer :** Mohamed Salah

**Explanation :**

- **Liverpool's Mohamed Salah** was conferred with the **2018 Confederation of African Football Player of the Year award**, for the second time, in **Senegal**.
- Among other awardees, **Houston Dash** and South Africa forward **Thembi Kgatlana** was named **Women's Player of the Year**.

**January 11**

1. Which organisation received 'Exhibitor of the Year Award'?

**Answer :** Defence Research and Development Organisation

**Explanation :**

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** pavilion received '**Exhibitor of the Year Award**' at **106th Indian Science Congress** held at Lovely Professional University (LPU), Phagwara, **Punjab**.

**January 12**



1. Who was conferred the ICSIs Lifetime Achievement Award for 'Translating Excellence in Corporate Governance into Reality'?

**Answer :** Adi Godrej

**Explanation :**

- Industrialist and **Godrej Group Chairman Adi Godrej** was conferred the **ICSIs Lifetime Achievement Award** for 'Translating Excellence in Corporate Governance into Reality' in **Mumbai**.
- The award instituted by **The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)**, was given at its golden jubilee celebrations.

### **January 13**

1. Who was conferred with the honorary rank of General of the Indian Army?

**Answer :** Purna Chandra Thapa

**Explanation :**

- President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the **honorary rank of General of the Indian Army on Purna Chandra Thapa, the Chief of the Army Staff of Nepalese Army**.
- The honour was given to him at a special Investiture Ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

### **January 14**

1. Who was awarded in the 'Best Book of Fiction Written by a Woman Author'?

**Answer :** Writer Namita Gokhale

**Explanation :**

- Writer Namita Gokhale was awarded in the 'Best Book of Fiction Written by a Woman Author' category at the inaugural edition of **Bhopal Literature and Art Festival (BLF)**. She has won the Sushila Devi Literature Award for her novel "Things to Leave Behind".

2. Which filmmaker was awarded with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the West Bengal Film Journalists Association (WBFJA)?

**Answer :** Buddhadeb Dasgupta

**Explanation :**

- National award-winning filmmaker **Buddhadeb Dasgupta** was conferred the **Lifetime Achievement Award**, in the name of **late Satyajit Ray**, by the **West Bengal Film Journalists Association (WBFJA) in Kolkata**.
- It was given in the third edition of the '**Cinemar Samabartan**' ceremony.

### **January 15**

1. Who received the first-ever Philip Kotler Presidential award?

**Answer :** Shri Narendra Modi

**Explanation :**

- The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi**, received the first-ever Philip Kotler Presidential award, in **New Delhi**. This award is given in remembrance of works and contribution done by **Prof. Philip Kotler**, who is a well-known in the field of Marketing.
- The Award focuses on the triple P's of the Nation: **People, Profit and Planet**. It will be offered annually to the leader of a Nation.

## January 16

1. Who was awarded the Franco-German Prize for Human Rights and the Rule of Law for 2018 in Beijing, China?

**Answer :** Mr Yu Wensheng

**Explanation :**

- Detained Chinese lawyer, **Mr Yu Wensheng** who is best known for suing the Beijing government over the city's once chronic pollution, granted a human rights award by the **French** and **German** ambassadors to China at an event organised by the German embassy in Beijing.
- Yu Wensheng's wife, **Madam Xu Yan**, received the **Franco-German Prize for Human Rights and the Rule of Law for 2018**, on his behalf.

## January 17

1. Name the Indian who has been featured in the Top "Global Thinkers 2019" ranking released by the Foreign Policy publishing?

**Answer :** Mukesh Ambani

**Explanation :**

- Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries, **Mukesh Ambani** who is also the Richest Indian, has been featured in the Top "**Global Thinkers 2019**" ranking released by the prestigious **Foreign Policy publishing**.
- The Full list of 'Global Thinkers 2019' will be published on 22nd January 2019 at the 10th Anniversary of Global Thinkers listing.

2. Who became the first Indian and youngest man to climb the seven highest peaks and volcanic summits across all continents?

**Answer :** Satyarup Siddhanta

**Explanation :**

- Software engineer and mountaineer **Satyarup Siddhanta**, hailing from Haridevpur in South Kolkata, became the **first Indian and youngest man** to climb the seven highest peaks and volcanic summits across all continents.
- This feat was attained after he conquered Antarctica's highest point, **Mount Sidley**.

## January 18

1. Who was named to receive Gandhi Peace Prize for 2018?

**Answer :** Yohei Sasakawa

**Explanation :**

- **Yohei Sasakawa** was named to receive Gandhi Peace Prize for 2018, who is the Goodwill Ambassador of the **World Health Organization for Leprosy Elimination**. The award will be given to Yohei Sasakawa in recognition of his work towards the eradication of the disease in India and across the world.
- The award was instituted by the Government of India in 1995 during the commemoration of **125th Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**.

2. Which Indian born professor was announced the recipient of the 2019 Japan Prize in the field of "Biological Production, Ecology" by the Japan Prize Foundation?

**Answer :** Dr. Rattan Lal

**Explanation :**

- The **Japan Prize Foundation** announced India born professor **Dr. Rattan Lal** as the recipient of the **2019 Japan Prize** in the field of “**Biological Production, Ecology**”.
- **Dr. Yoshio Okamoto** was announced to be the recipient of the 2019 Japan Prize on of “**Materials and Production**” field.

### January 19

1. Which state government announced “Shaurya Award” to students in the name of 71 state police force martyrs?

**Answer :** Haryana

**Explanation :**

- Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar announced “**Shaurya Award**” to students in the **name of 71 state police force martyrs** who laid down their lives while maintaining law and order and protecting society since the formation of state in 1966.

2. Who has become the first Indian athlete to receive a nomination in the prestigious Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award?

**Answer :** Vinesh Phogat

**Explanation :**

- Indian female **wrestler Vinesh Phogat**, who hails from **Haryana**, became the first Indian athlete to receive a nomination in the prestigious **Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award**.
- She was nominated due to her comeback after battling a long injury lay-off to win a gold medal at the **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and Jakarta Asian Games**.

### January 20

1. Who has been presented with the prestigious Rosa Park Trailblazer award?

**Answer :** Gurinder Singh Khalsa

**Explanation :**

- An Indian-American **philanthropist and entrepreneur, Gurinder Singh Khalsa** (45), has been presented with the prestigious **Rosa Park Trailblazer award** for his campaign that forced US authorities change their policy towards headgear of the Sikh community.

2. Who has been conferred with the first Sheikh Saud International Prize for Materials Research by the Centre for Advanced Materials of the UAE?

**Answer :** C.N.R. Rao

**Explanation :**

- **Eminent Indian scientist C.N.R. Rao** of the Jawaharlal Nehru for Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru, has been conferred with the **first Sheikh Saud International Prize for Materials Research** by the Centre for Advanced Materials of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

### January 21

1. Who was named as the event ambassador for the 16th Tata Mumbai Marathon?

**Answer :** M C Mary Kom

**Explanation :**

- Six-time women's world boxing champion and Olympic medal list **M C Mary Kom** was named as the event ambassador for the 16th **Tata Mumbai Marathon** which will be held in **January 20, 2019**.
- It would be organized by **Procam International**.

**January 22**

1. Which city was named as the world capital of architecture for 2020 by UNESCO?

**Answer :** Rio de Janeiro

**Explanation :**

- **The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** named **Rio de Janeiro**, a city in Brazil as the **World Capital of Architecture for 2020**.

2. Who was awarded the Sansad Ratna Award for his performance as a parliamentarian?

**Answer :** Anurag Thakur

**Explanation :**

- The **Bhartiya Janta Party** Lok Sabha Member from Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh, **Anurag Thakur** was presented the **Sansad Ratna Award** for his performance as a parliamentarian.

**January 23**

1. Who received the 'Woman's Voice Award' at the AKLF?

**Answer :** Ranjani Murali

**Explanation :**

- **US-based Indian poet Ranjani Murali** received the '**Woman's Voice Award**' at the Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF). The award carries a cash prize of **Rs 1 lakh** apart from a citation.
- The objective of the award – '**Prabha Khaitan Womans Voice Award**' – is to recognise and encourage creative writing by women in India, to create a forum for their work and to support the publication of their writing.

2. How many bulls participated in Pudukkottai Jallikattu?

**Answer :** 1,354 bulls

**Explanation :**

- Jallikattu' as a symbol of the **valour and courage of the Tamil people**. A grand "jallikattu" (bull-taming) event held in **Pudukkottai** and this event entered the world record for the maximum number of bulls released into the sport arena.
- This event had the participation of **1,354 bulls and 424 tamers**.

**January 24**

1. Who has been awarded with Saraswati Samman 2017?

**Answer :** Sitanshu Yashaschandra

**Explanation :**

- The 27th edition of saraswati samman award ceremony was held in New Delhi. Eminent Gujarati poet **Sitanshu Yashaschandra** was awarded for his poetry collection, '**Vakhar,**' published in 2009. The 27th edition was organised by **KK Birla Foundation**.



- The 26th Saraswati Samman, 2016 was given to Konkani language author **Mahabaleshwar Sail** for his novel 'Hawthan'.

### **January 25**

1. Who win Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar award for the year 2019?

**Answer :** 8th Battalion of National Disaster Response Force

**Explanation :**

- The government formed an annual award titled **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar**. This award is to be awarded every year on **23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose**.
- For the year 2019, **8th Battalion of National Disaster Response Force** located at **Ghaziabad** is selected for its work in disaster management.

### **January 26**

1. Who was announced as the winner of \$25,000 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2018?

**Answer :** Tejaswini Niranjana

**Explanation :**

- **"No Presents Please"**, originally written in Kannada by noted author Jayant **Kaikini** and translated into English by **Tejaswini Niranjana**, was announced as the winner of the prestigious **\$25,000 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2018** at the **Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Meet in Kolkata**.

### **January 27**

1. Who has awarded the best miniratna PSU?

**Answer :** Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)

**Explanation :**

- **Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)** has been awarded the **best miniratna PSU** in strategic performance (financial category) at **the Governance Now Sixth PSU awards**.
- The award, comprising of a trophy, was presented to NRL MD **S K Barua** by Member of Parliament **Manoj Tiwari** and veteran actress and social activist **Poonam Dhillon** at an award function held in New Delhi recently.

2. Pranab Mukherjee also known as?

**Answer :** Pranab Da

**Explanation :**

- President Ram Nath Kovind announced the recipients of Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award, they are former president Pranab Mukherjee, social activist Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumously) and musician Dr Bhupen Hazarika (posthumously) in New Delhi.
- **Pranab Mukherjee** also known as **Pranab Da**, was the **13th President of India** and served from **2012 until 2017**.

### **January 28**

1. Who awarded social impact award to Tetra Pak India?

**Answer :** Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

**Explanation :**

- Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) awarded social impact award to **Tetra Pak** India, the world's leading packaging and processing solutions provider under the category '**Sustainable Environment category**'.

2. Name the Tamil translation of Andrei Makine's book won Romain Rolland Book Prize for literary translation?

**Answer :** "La vie d'un homme inconnu"

**Explanation :**

- **Romain Rolland Book Prize for literary translation** won by Tamil translation of Andrei Makine's "**La vie d'un homme inconnu**" (The Life of an Unknown Man) at the **Jaipur Literature Festival**.

3. Who received the Republic Day Journalism Award 2019 from Assam government?

**Answer :** Dharendra Nath Chakraborty

**Explanation :**

- Assam government entitled the **Republic Day Journalism Award 2019** to veteran journalist and former editor **Dhirendra Nath Chakraborty**.

### **January 29**

1. Who are the biggest winners at the 2019 Screen Actors Guild Awards?

**Answer :** Rami Malek and Glenn Close

**Explanation :**

- **'Black Panther', Rami Malek and Glenn Close** were some of the biggest winners at the **2019 Screen Actors Guild Awards**. From television, '**This is Us**' won ensemble award for drama, while '**The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel**' won the comedy award.
- Rami Malek won for playing the iconic Queen front man Freddie Mercury in 'Bohemian Rhapsody' while Glenn Close took home the award for best actress for 'The Wife.'

2. Who conducted the survey for Southern Railway bagged number one position for cleanliness in the country?

**Answer:** Southern Railway

**Explanation:**

- The Southern Railway bagged number one position for cleanliness in the country in the survey conducted by **Trains Cleanliness Survey conducted by IRCTC**.

### **January 30**

1. Which country received the Award of Excellence for 'Best in Show' at the New York Times Travel Show 2019?

**Answer :** India

**Explanation :**

- **India** received the **Award of Excellence** for '**Best in Show**' at the **New York Times Travel Show 2019**, the largest travel show in **North America**. India was honoured during the Closing Bell Ceremony at the New York Stock Exchange.
- The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India participated as the '**Presenting Partner**' in the New York Times Travel Show (**NYTTS 2019**) organised at Jacob K Javits Centre.

## January 31

1. Who was entitled as the winner of the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature for his translated work?

**Answer :** Jayant Kaikini

**Explanation :**

- Kannada poet and short story writer **Jayant Kaikini** was entitled as the winner of the **DSC Prize for South Asian Literature** for his translated work **“No Presents Please”**. **Jayant and translator Tejaswini Niranjana** received the award from eminent writer Ruskin Bond.

2. Who organized “Swasth Bharat Yatra”?

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

**Explanation :**

- Tamil Nadu was awarded the “Best State Overall” for its active participation in the national campaign **“Swasth Bharat Yatra”**, which was organized from 16th October 2018 by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- The Key element of the Cyclothon was **“Eat Right India”** and the goal of the campaign was to aware the sensitive people about eating food and being healthy.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### January 1

1. \_\_\_\_\_ has been appointed the new Information Chief Commissioner by the Government of India?

**Answer :** Sudhir Bhargava

**Explanation :**

- The Government of India has appointed **Sudhir Bhargava**, an information commissioner in the Central Information Commission **as the new chief information commissioner**. The government has also **appointed four new information commissioners**.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has approved the appointment of former bureaucrats **Yashwardhan Kumar Sinha, Vanaja N Sarna, Neeraj Kumar Gupta and Suresh Chandra** as the new information commissioners.

### January 2

1. Who was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court?

**Answer :** Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair Radhakrishnan

**Explanation :**

- Justice **Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair Radhakrishnan** was sworn in as the **Chief Justice** of the **Telangana High Court**.
- His oath was administered by Telangana and Andhra Pradesh **Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan**.

2. Name the person who took charge as the new chairman of Railway Board?

**Answer :** V K Yadav

**Explanation :**

- **The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet** has approved the appointment of **V K Yadav as Railway Board chairman** on the superannuation of Ashwani Lohani on December 31. Before his posting to the coveted post, Yadav was serving as General Manager, South Central Railway.

### **January 3**

1. Who was sworn in as Brazil's 42nd president?

**Answer :** Jair Bolsonaro

**Explanation :**

- **Jair Bolsonaro** was sworn in as **Brazil's 42nd president**. Mr Bolsonaro, 63, won the presidential election by a wide margin against Fernando Haddad of the left-wing Workers' Party.

2. Who will be the new MD and CEO of the Axis bank?

**Answer :** Amitabh Chaudhry

**Explanation :**

- Private sector lender Axis Bank Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) **Shikha Sharma retired** from the services of the bank and **Amitabh Chaudhry** will be the new MD and CEO of the Axis bank from **1st January 2019**.

### **January 4**

1. Name the person who was appointed the secretary of Competition Commission of India (CCI)?

**Answer :** Pramod Kumar Singh

**Explanation :**

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) appointed **Pramod Kumar Singh** as its secretary. The Commission was established in 2003 to replace the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission.

### **January 5**

1. Who was appointed the new Chief Justice of Pakistan?

**Answer :** Justice Asif Saeed Khosa

**Explanation :**

- **Justice Asif Saeed Khosa** will take oath of his office a day after incumbent CJP **Justice Saqib Nisar** retires on January 17.
- Justice Khosa has been a senior Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan since 31 December 2016.

2. Who has assume charge as Secretary, Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India?

**Answer :** Chhabilendra Roul

**Explanation :**

- **Chhabilendra Roul** has assumed the charge of Secretary, Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, and Government of India.



## January 9

1. Who joined International Monetary Fund (IMF) as its 11th chief economist?

**Answer :** Gita Gopinath

**Explanation :**

- Mysore-born Gita Gopinath joined **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** as its **11th** chief economist, thus becoming the **first woman** to occupy the top IMF post.
- She succeeded **Maurice (Maury) Obstfeld** who retired on December 31, 2018.

2. Who was reinstated as CBI Chief by the Supreme Court?

**Answer :** Alok Kumar Verma

**Explanation :**

- The **Supreme Court**, as per orders penned by **Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi**, reinstated **CBI Director Alok Kumar Verma** without giving him any major policy decision making powers.
- This was done against the October 23 2018 decision which had earlier divested him of his powers completely as per the corruption charges brought against him.

## January 10

1. Who is the new president of Global Solar Council (GSC)?

**Answer :** Shri Pranav R Mehta

**Explanation :**

- The chairman of **National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI)**, Shri Pranav R Mehta, has taken over as the president of **Global Solar Council (GSC)** from January 1, 2019.
- He is dubbed as the **Solar Man of India**. He has been conferred with the '**Visionary Disruptor Award**' by Solar Future, which he will be receiving on 15th January, 2019 at the sidelines of World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi.

## January 12

1. Who was appointed as new President of Venezuela?

**Answer :** Nicolas Maduro

**Explanation :**

- **Nicolas Maduro** was sworn in as **Venezuelan President** for the 2nd term for a new 6-year term. Venezuela is one of the world's largest oil producers and holds the presidency of oil cartel Opec until 2025.

2. Name the person who took charge as Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)?

**Answer :** M. Nageswara Rao

**Explanation :**

- **Additional Director M. Nageswara Rao** took charge of the office of the **Central Bureau of Investigation** as the **Director**.
- The decision was taken by a 2-1 decision by a selection committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with its other two members being Leader of Congress Mallikarjun Kharge and Supreme Court judge A.K. Sikri.

## January 13

1. Who was appointed the Secretary General of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)?

**Answer :** Jaideep Govind

**Explanation :**

- According to an announcement by the **Personnel Ministry, The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** approved the appointment of senior bureaucrat **Jaideep Govind** as the **Secretary General, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**.

### **January 15**

1. Name the former Chief Statistician of India who took oath as Member of UPSC?

**Answer :** Dr. T.C.A Anant

**Explanation :**

- **Dr. T.C.A Anant**, former Chief Statistician of India & Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, took the Oath of Office and Secrecy as **Member, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**. Oath was administered by **Shri Arvind Saxena, Chairman, UPSC**.

### **January 16**

1. Who was appointed as new Chief Executive Officer of International Cricket Council(ICC)?

**Answer :** Manu Sawhney

**Explanation :**

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced the appointment of **Manu Sawhney** as its new **Chief Executive Officer**.

2. Who was given one month extension recently for the post of Finance Secretary?

**Answer :** Ajay Narayan Jha

**Explanation :**

- The government extended the service of **Finance Secretary Ajay Narayan Jha** by a month till February-end. He was to retire on January 31.

### **January 17**

1. Recently,Tim Stone stepped down from the post of Chief Financial Officer.He was the former CFO of which photo messaging app?

**Answer :** Snapchat

**Explanation :**

- The **Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of photo-messaging app Snapchat, Tim Stone**, has called it quits after just eight months of being appointed at the post.
- Stone will however continue to serve as Snapchat's CFO while the company searches for a replacement.

### **January 18**

1. Name the 2 justice approved by Ram Nath Kovind for the elevation of Supreme Court?

**Answer :** Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dinesh Maheshwari

**Explanation :**

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** approved the elevation of **Justice Sanjiv Khanna** and **Justice Dinesh Maheshwari** to the Supreme Court.
- The Chief Justice of India and the Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under clause (2) of **Article 124** of the Constitution.

**January 19**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was appointed the Director General (Investigation) in the National Human Rights Commission?

**Answer :** Prabhat Singh

**Explanation :**

- The **Department of Personnel & Training**, Government of India has appointed Senior IPS Officer **Prabhat Singh** as Director General (Investigation) in the **National Human Rights Commission**.
- The appointment of Mr. Singh came after the post of the Director General (Investigation) National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) fell vacant with the retirement of **Gurbachan Singh** (IPS 1984 batch) on 31 December 2018.

2. Who took oath as the 26th Chief Justice of Pakistan?

**Answer :** Justice Asif Saeed Khosa

**Explanation :**

- **Justice Asif Saeed Khosa** who is known for his habit of citing works of literature in his judgements took oath as the **26th** Chief Justice of **Pakistan** in a ceremony held at the President's House, Islamabad.

**January 20**

1. Who was elected the Prime Minister of Sweden for a second term?

**Answer :** Stefan Lofven

**Explanation :**

- Sweden ended a four-month political vacuum when lawmakers elected 61 years old Swedish Social Democratic Party's leader **Stefan Lofven** as the Prime Minister of Sweden for a **second term**.
- Government is formed in **coalition** with the **Green Party** and in budget cooperation with **Center Party** and the Liberals.

**January 21**

1. For which country Andry Rajoelina was recently sworn in as President?

**Answer :** Madagascar

**Explanation :**

- **Andry Rajoelina** was sworn in as **President of Madagascar**. The oath-taking ceremony was attended by delegation from 35 countries and international organizations.

**January 22**

1. Who was appointed as a member of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)?

**Answer :** Shri Indu Shekhar Jha

**Explanation :**

- **Shri Indu Shekhar Jha** was appointed the member of **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)** and **Shri Lalchharlian Pachuau** was appointed as a member of **Joint Electricity Regulation Commission** for **Manipur and Mizoram** by **Power Ministry**.

**January 29**

1. Who has appointed as Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia?

**Answer :** Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh

**Explanation :**

- **Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh** has been appointed Regional Director for World Health Organization South-East Asia, for a **second five-year term**. Her second term of office will begin on **1 February 2019**.
- she is the **first woman** to become Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia Region

**January 30**

1. Who has become the first Hindu woman to have been appointed as a civil judge in Pakistan?

**Answer :** Suman Kumari

**Explanation :**

- **Suman Kumari** has become the **first Hindu woman** to have been appointed as a civil judge in Pakistan after passing an examination for induction of judicial officers. Kumari, who hails from Qambar-Shahdada Kot, will serve in her native district.

**January 31**

1. Who was appointed as the part time chairman in Kerala based private sector lender Federal Bank?

**Answer :** Dilip Sadarangani

**Explanation :**

- **Kerala** based private sector lender **Federal Bank** has appointed **Dilip Sadarangani** as the **part-time chairman**. The appointment of Sadarangani, who has been on the bank's board since **2013**, has been cleared by the Reserve Bank.

**IMPORTANT DAYS**

**January 5**

1. When is World Braille Day observed?

**Answer :** January 4

**Explanation :**

- **World Braille Day** celebrated on **January 4**
- United Nations observed the **first official World Braille Day** remembering the birth anniversary of **Louis Braille** who was the inventor of **Braille** for the people with visual disabilities.



- World Braille day is observed annually on **4th January** to raise awareness on the importance of Braille for approximately **1.3 billion people living** with some form of distance or near vision impairment.

### **January 11**

1. When was World Hindi Day observed?

**Answer :** January 10

**Explanation :**

- **World Hindi Day is being observed on January 10**
- **World Hindi Day** is celebrated on January 10 every year, marking the anniversary of **first World Hindi Conference** which was held in 1975. It was first observed on **January 10, 2006**.
- The first World Hindi Conference was inaugurated by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi.

### **January 13**

1. Which day is celebrated to honour the birthday of Swami Vivekananda?

**Answer :** National Youth Day

**Explanation :**

- **National Youth Day-January 12**
- The nation celebrated the **National Youth Day** (also known as **Yuva Diwas**) to honour the birthday of **Swami Vivekananda**, one of India's greatest spiritual and social leaders who had strong faith in the power of youth.
- National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 is organised on the theme of **"Be The Voice of New India"** and **"Find solutions and contribute to policy"**.

### **January 24**

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Subhas Chandra Bose Museum in which city to mark the freedom fighter's 122nd birth anniversary?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- 23rd January 2019, 122nd Birth Anniversary of the great Freedom Fighter Subhas Chandra Bose was celebrated all over India. Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Subhash Chandra Bose Museum** to mark the **122nd Birth anniversary** of freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose at **Red Fort** in Delhi.
- Prime Minister, Narendra Modi also inaugurated two more museums – **"The Yaad-e-Jallian Museum"** and **"1857 War of Independence Museum"**.

### **January 25**

1. When did the National Girl Child Day was celebrate?

**Answer :** 24th January

**Explanation :**

- **National Girl Child Day-24th January**

- The nation celebrated National Girl Child Day 2019 through various programmes including awareness campaign on save girl child, child sex ratios and creating a healthy and safe environment for a girl child throughout the country.
- The theme for National Girl Child Day 2019 is “**Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow**”.

### **January 26**

1. When was the National Voters Day celebrating?

**Answer :** 25th January

**Explanation :**

- **National Voters Day-25th January**
- India is celebrating **9th National Voters Day on 25th January 2019** for enhanced participation of citizens in the electoral process. The main purpose of celebrating National Voters Day is to encourage, facilitate and maximize the enrollment, especially for the new voters. The National Voters Day was first celebrated on **25th January 2011**.
- The **theme** for this years **National Voters’ Day** is ‘**Accessible Elections**’ to spread awareness among voters regarding effective participation in the electoral process.

### **January 29**

1. When did the International Customs Day was celebrate?

**Answer :** January 26

**Explanation :**

- **International Customs Day- January 26**
- International Customs Day (ICD) is celebrating on the **26th January** every year by the Custom Organization, to commemorate the first Conference of **World Customs Organizations**.
- This year international Customs day is celebrated with a **slogan “SMART borders for seamless Trade, Travel and Transport.”**

### **January 30**

1. When did the Data Protection Day was observed?

**Answer :** January 28

**Explanation :**

- **Data Protection Day-January 28**
- Data Protection Day also known as Data Privacy Day was observed in some parts of the world to raise awareness and promote privacy and data protection. It is an annual event which was observed for the first time on 28th January 2007 by Council of Europe as European Data Protection Day.
- The Day is currently observed in the 47 European Countries, United States, Israel and Canada.

## **ECONOMY**

### **January 1**

1. According to Confederation of Indian Industry “Growth Outlook for 2019” report, what will be India’s GDP growth in 2019?

**Answer :** 7.5%

**Explanation :**

- In its report titled ‘**Growth Outlook for 2019**’, **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** stated that India will remain the fastest growing major economy with GDP growth estimated to be **7.5% in FY19**.

### January 2

1. Which country recently introduced GAFA tax?

**Answer :** France

**Explanation :**

- **France** introduced a new “**GAFA tax**” named after the large internet and technology companies **Google, Apple, Facebook** and **Amazon** to ensure the global giants pay a fair share of taxes on their massive businesses in Europe.

### January 3

1. What is the use of Chinese synthetic rubber fluoroelastomers’ used in automobile and other industries?

**Answer :** To minimize the impact of dumped imports.

**Explanation :**

- The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India, is mulling to impose **anti-dumping duty** for 18 months on a Chinese synthetic rubber ‘**fluoroelastomers**’ used in automobile and other industries in order to minimize the impact of dumped imports.

### January 4

1. What is IMCECA?

**Answer :** India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement

**Explanation :**

- The **ministry of finance** announced that the government has cut import duties on **crude and refined palm oil** from **Southeast Asian countries or ASEAN** countries.
- This move was taken under the **India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement** and Malaysia under the **India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (IMCECA)**.

### January 5

1. Who is the former SEBI chairman?

**Answer :** U K Sinha

**Explanation :**

- The **Reserve Bank** set up an expert committee under former SEBI chairman **U K Sinha** to suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSME sector.
- The **eight-member committee** will also examine the factors affecting the timely and adequate availability of finance to the sector.

### January 6

1. Name the three Regional Rural Banks are amalgamated into a single RRB with effect from January 1?

**Answer:** Punjab Gramin Bank, Malwa Gramin Bank and Sutlej Gramin Bank

**Explanation:**

- The government has amalgamated three Regional Rural Banks — Punjab Gramin Bank, Malwa Gramin Bank and Sutlej Gramin Bank — into a single RRB with effect from January 1.

### January 8

1. Who is the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar?

**Answer:** Sushil Kumar Modi

**Explanation:**

- The **Group of States' Finance Ministers (GoFM)** led by **Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Sushil Kumar Modi** approved levy of **1% 'calamity cess'** by **Kerala** for a period of **two** years to fund rehabilitation work in the state of Kerala. It will recommend the same to the **GST council meeting** which will be held in **January 10, 2019**.

### January 9

1. Central Statistics Office (CSO) stated that the Indian economy is expected to grow at what per cent in 2018-19?

**Answer:** 7.2 per cent

**Explanation:**

- **Central Statistics Office (CSO)** stated that the Indian economy is expected to grow at **7.2 per cent in 2018-19**, a tad higher from **6.7 per cent** in the previous fiscal, mainly due to improvement in the performance of agriculture and manufacturing sectors
- The increase is being expected with the improvement in performance of agriculture and manufacturing sectors.

### January 10

1. Who is called as Aadhaar architect?

**Answer:** Nandan Nilekani

**Explanation:**

- The **Reserve Bank of India** constituted a 5-member high-level committee **under Aadhaar architect Nandan Nilekani** to suggest measures to strengthen the **safety and security of digital payments in the country**.
- The decision aims to encourage **digitisation of payments and enhance financial inclusion through digitisation**.

2. World Bank projected India' GDP, expected to grow at what percent in the fiscal year 2018-19?

**Answer:** 7.3%

**Explanation:**

- **World Bank** projected India' GDP, expected to grow at **7.3% in the fiscal year 2018-19, and 7.5%** in the following two years.



- The Bank said India will continue to be the fastest growing major economy in the world. In India, the growth has accelerated, driven by an upswing in consumption, and investment growth has firmed as the effects of temporary factors wane, the World Bank said in its latest report.

### January 11

1. Who is the Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs?

**Answer:** Mohammad Javad Zarif

**Explanation:**

- The **Union Road Minister Nitin Gadkari**, on successful meeting with Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs **Mohammad Javad Zarif**, announced that **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved **Iran's Pasargad Bank** to open branches in **Mumbai** for easing trade related transactions.

2. What is the aim of Market regulator SEBI has set up an advisory committee?

**Answer :** To help and analyse the new methods of policy making for the development of capital market

**Explanation :**

- **Market regulator SEBI has set up an advisory committee** that will help and **analyse the new methods of policy making for the development of capital market**. The committee formed will be **headed by Sankar De**.
- This committee is formed with an objective to define the objective of creating the policy for the development of the capital market and for as bridge between the analytical research to formation of the policy.

### January 12

1. Which entity announced that the Tata Steel plant at IJmuiden in the Netherlands?

**Answer :** World Economic Forum

**Explanation :**

- The **World Economic Forum** announced that the **Tata Steel** plant at **IJmuiden** in the **Netherlands** has been recognized as '**Manufacturing Lighthouses**' – a distinction awarded to manufacturing facilities which are seen as leaders in technologies of the '**Fourth Industrial Revolution**'

### January 13

1. What is FICCI?

**Answer :** Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

**Explanation :**

- The global consulting firm **PwC** and industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (**FICCI**) held a new survey of manufacturers and released a report titled "**The India Manufacturing Barometer 2019**".
- The report projected that India's economy is expected to grow anywhere between **7.3 – 7.7 per cent**.

### January 14

1. The 32nd Meeting of GST Council was concluded in which city?

**Answer :** New Delhi

**Explanation :**

- **The 32nd Meeting of GST Council was concluded in New Delhi.** The Limit of annual turnover for composition scheme increased to 1.5 crore rupees effective from April 1, 2019. The Council has decided to **increase the GST registration threshold limit to 40 lakh rupees from 20 lakh.**

### January 15

1. Which state houses the Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary?

**Answer :** Tripura

**Explanation :**

- The **National Wildlife Board** after receiving recommendations from the state **Wildlife Board**, approved extraction of natural gas from **Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary** by state-owned **ONGC Tripura Asset**.
- Under the project, **10-12 gas** bearing wells had been discovered by **ONGC Tripura Asset** for extraction of **natural gas** from Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Belonia subdivision of Gomati district, **Tripura**.

### January 16

1. India's headline inflation rate based on the consumer price index (combined) reduced to an 18-month low of what percent in December?

**Answer :** 2.19 %

**Explanation :**

- According to an official release by **Central Statistics Office (CSO)**, citing cooling food and fuel prices as the reasons, it stated that **wholesale and retail inflation** reduced to a multi month low with **CPI** falling to an **18-month low in December, 2018**.
- India's headline **inflation** rate based on the **consumer price index** (combined) reduced to an 18-month low of **2.19%** in December, down from 2.33% in November, 2018. It was 5.21% in December 2017.

### January 17

1. How much amount the Union Cabinet approved capital infusion in Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) through recapitalisation bonds to boost the bank's capacity in export financing?

**Answer:** Rs. 6,000 crore

**Explanation:**

- The Union Cabinet approved capital infusion of **Rs. 6,000 crore in Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank)** through recapitalisation bonds to boost the bank's capacity in export financing.

### January 18

1. The economy seen a growth rate of 7.2% in the current financial year estimated by which organisation?

**Answer :** Central Statistics Office (CSO)

**Explanation :**

- A Fitch group company **India ratings and research** estimated that India's GDP growth to be a "tad higher" at **7.5%** in financial year **2019-20**. Earlier it was **7.2%** during fiscal year **2018-19**.
- The economy seen a growth rate of **7.2%** in the current financial year against **6.7%** in the previous year estimated by Central Statistics Office (CSO).

### January 19

1. What is PMRPY?

**Answer :** Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana

**Explanation :**

- **Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) has crossed the milestone of 1 crore beneficiaries as on January 14, 2019**, according to a release by Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- PMRPY is the flagship scheme of the Government for employment generation. PMRPY was announced on 7th August, 2016 and is being implemented by Ministry of Labour & Employment through the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO).

### January 20

1. What is IBBI?

**Answer :** Insolvency and Bankruptcy board of India

**Explanation :**

- Former Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), U.K. Sinha will head an 11-member working group constituted by **the Insolvency and Bankruptcy board of India (IBBI)** to study the concept of '**Group Insolvency**' and suggest a suitable framework.

### January 21

1. What are the organizations in dialogue to form a world class consortium to initially build the first lithium Ion battery plant in India?

**Answer :** Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and Libcoin

**Explanation :**

- Government announced that **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and Libcoin** are in dialogue to form a world class consortium to initially build the first lithium Ion battery plant in India. This project will bring energy independence by replacing oil imports with abundant renewable energy sources.
- The aim of the project is to create integrated manufacturing ecosystem resulting in self-reliance and lower cost.

### January 22

1. Where did Symposium of International Automotive Technology 2019 held in?

**Answer :** Pune

**Explanation :**

- Government has taken decision to make **Euro 6** Emission standards necessary for the initial launch of vehicles from **1 April 2020**. Union Minister for Transport **Nitin Gadkari** made the announcement while addressing **Symposium of International**

## Automotive Technology 2019 in Pune.

### January 23

1. What is the position of India in Global Talent Competitive Index 2019 ranking?

Answer : 80th

**Explanation :**

- **INSEAD business school** in partnership with **Tata Communications** and **Adecco Group** released the 6th edition of **Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) 2019** which stated that India has moved up one position to rank **80th** on the Global Talent Competitive Index 2019 ranking.
- The top 5 countries in the index included **Switzerland** followed by Singapore, the US, Norway and Denmark.

### January 24

1. India became which position most attractive investment market for global CEOs as per PwC Survey conducted over more than 1300 CEOs in 91 countries?

Answer : 4th

**Explanation :**

- **India** became 4th most attractive investment market for global **CEOs as per PwC Survey** conducted over more than 1300 CEOs in 91 countries. The report was released on the first day of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting held in Davos, Switzerland.

2. What is CRISIL?

Answer : Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited

**Explanation :**

- As per a report published by CRISIL (Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited), **Bihar** has been ranked the Top State in terms of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) by clocking a growth rate of **11.3 per cent** in financial year 2017-2018.

### January 25

1. The United Nations released the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report which projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at which percent during 2018-19?

Answer : 7.6 Per cent

**Explanation :**

- The United Nations released **the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP)** report **which projected India's gross domestic product (GDP)** to grow at **7.4 percent** during **2018-19** and improve to **7.6 per cent** in the next fiscal.
- Besides the report projected that the gross domestic product (**GDP**) of India in **2020-21** will grow at **7.4 per cent**.

### January 26

1. Which entity released a new standard for Aviation Turbine Fuels (ATF) which can be used as



bio-jet fuel on all military and civilian aircraft?

Answer : Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in collaboration with Indian Air Force

**Explanation :**

- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** in collaboration with **Indian Air Force (IAF)** released a new standard for **Aviation Turbine Fuels (ATF)** which can be used as bio-jet fuel on all military and civilian aircraft.

2. Global growth is expected to remain at what per cent in 2019 and 2020?

Answer : 3 per cent

**Explanation :**

- **Global growth is expected to remain at 3 per cent in 2019 and 2020**, however, the steady pace of expansion in the global economy masks an increase in downside risks that could potentially exacerbate development challenges in many parts of the world, according to the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2019.

### January 27

1. Name the report expects India's gross domestic product (GDP) to expand by 7.4 per cent in 2020-21?

Answer : World Economic Situation and Prospects

**Explanation :**

- India's economy is expected to grow at **7.4 per cent** during 2018-19 and improve to **7.6 per cent in the next fiscal**, said a UN report.
- The United Nations' **World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP)** 2019 report also expects India's gross domestic product (GDP) to expand by **7.4 per cent in 2020-21**.

### January 28

1. What is the position of India in General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) readiness index?

Answer : 6th

**Explanation :**

- The report released by **CISCO** on **2019 Data Privacy Benchmark Study** ranked India in 6th position in **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** readiness index.
- It also stated that organizations that invested to meet GDPR norms experienced shorter delays in selling to existing customers.

### January 29

1. What is EAC-PM?

Answer : Economic Advisory Council of Prime Minister

**Explanation :**

- **Economic Advisory Council of Prime Minister (EAC-PM)** headed by **NITI Aayog Member Bibek Debroy** said in a report that India will continue to grow in the **7 to 7.5 per cent range** in the next few years despite global and structural challenges.

### January 30

1. Which country replaced Japan as world's second largest steel producing country?

Answer : India

**Explanation :**

- **India has replaced Japan as world's second largest steel producing country**, while **China is the largest producer** of crude steel accounting for more than 51 per cent of production, according to **World Steel Association (worldsteel)**.
- **World Steel Association (worldsteel)** is one of the industry associations in the world.

**January 31**

1. What is the % of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has increased in 2017-18?

**Answer :** 18% to Rs. 28.25 lakh crore

**Explanation :**

- **Reserve Bank of India** released a data on “**Census on Foreign Liabilities and Assets of Indian Direct Investment Companies, 2017-18**” which shows that the **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** has been increased by 18 per cent to Rs. 28.25 lakh crore.
- **Mauritius** is the largest source of FDI in India (19.7%) followed by United States of America, United Kingdom, Singapore and Japan.

**BOOKS****January 1**

1. Who is the author of “Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From”?

**Answer :** Tony Joseph

**Explanation :**

- The book titled “**Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From**” has been authored by journalist **Tony Joseph**, which unravels our history using the results of genetics and other research.
- According to book, the Indian population is a result of four major migrations, including that of the Aryans, into the country in prehistoric times.

**January 6**

1. Name the second book of Sanjay Khan?

**Answer :** Assalamalaikum Watan

**Explanation :**

- On the occasion of his 78th birthday, veteran actor-producer **Sanjay Khan announced his second book, ‘Assalamalaikum Watan’**.
- He is the recipient of the ‘National Citizen Award’ twice, the ‘Rajiv Gandhi Award for Excellence’ and the ‘Gem of India Award for Excellence’ among many other honours.

**January 7**

1. Who launched Manohar Manoj’s book?

**Answer :** Harivansh Narayan Singh

**Explanation :**

- Vice-Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Harivansh Narayan Singh launched **Manohar Manoj's book "A Crusade against corruption"**.
- Manoj has written this book after massive research and deep observations on the subject during the last 15 years and claimed that this is a kind of "Encyclopedic Snapshots on Corruption in India".

### **January 23**

1. Who launched the book 'Universal Brotherhood Through Yoga'?

**Answer :** M. Venkaiah Naidu

**Explanation :**

- Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** launched the book '**Universal Brotherhood Through Yoga**' in **New Delhi**.
- The book is compiled by **Bharatiya Sanskrit Pitham**.

### **January 27**

1. Name the new anthology translated and edited by Indian poet-diplomat Abhay Kumar?

**Answer :** 'New Brazilian Poems'

**Explanation :**

- A new anthology titled '**New Brazilian Poems**', translated and edited by Indian poet-diplomat **Abhay Kumar** was launched at the National Association of Writers of Brazil.
- He was also honoured with the **SAARC Literary Award 2013** for his contribution to contemporary South Asian Poetry.

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