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DECEMBER - 2019

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NATIONAL NEWS

December 1
1. In which place 2nd Annual India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks have held?
   Answer: New Delhi
   Explanation:
   - The 2nd Annual India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks have held New Delhi. The talks aimed at renewing India’s commitment to supporting projects under Bhutan’s ongoing twelfth five-year plan, that is from 2018-23.
   - Aim: The bilateral mechanism aims to review the entire gamut of India’s development partnership with Bhutan.

2. In which place STPU and Qatar’s Milestone International Education signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enable the University to set up its campus?
   Answer: Doha
   Explanation:
   - Maharashtra’s Savitribai Phule Pune University (STPU) and Qatar’s Milestone International Education signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enable the University to set up its campus in Doha.
   - The aim of the agreement is to provide opportunities in higher education to around 8 million Indian diaspora based in Qatar.

December 2
1. In which place seventh Indo-Sri Lanka joint military exercise was held on December 1, 2019?
   Answer: Aundh military station
   Explanation:
   - The seventh Indo-Sri Lanka joint military exercise was held on December 1, 2019 at Aundh military station. The main objective of the exercise is to build and promote positive relations between the countries.
   - The exercise is scheduled to be conducted at the Foreign Training Node in Pune between December 1 and December 14, 2019.
   Related Keys
   - Sri Lanka President - Gotabaya Rajapaksa
   - Sri Lanka Currency - Sri Lankan rupee (LKR).

December 3
1. Which Mission will be carried out between December 2019 and March 2020 across the country to prevent eight diseases?
   Answer: Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0
   Explanation:
   - Centre is launching nationwide vaccination drive to prevent eight diseases under Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 across the country. The government’s flagship scheme is aimed at immunizing children under the age of 2 years and pregnant women against eight vaccine preventable diseases. The IMI 2.0 will be carried out between December 2019 and March 2020.
December 4

1. Which diseases in Samoa has killed 50 children as authorities race to vaccinate the entire population?
   **Answer:** measles outbreak
   **Explanation:**
   - A measles outbreak in Samoa has killed 50 children as authorities race to vaccinate the entire population. The government of the South Pacific nation said that another five children had died within the past day as the epidemic continues to spread.
   - In all, 53 people have died since late October, including one adult and two teenagers older than 14.
   **Related Keys**
   - Samoa Capital: Apia
   - Currency: Samoan tala

2. Which Government is planning to integrate largest lenders to the power sector in order to help clean energy firms clear their dues?
   **Answer:** India
   **Explanation:**
   - The Government of India is planning to integrate largest lenders to the power sector in order to help clean energy firms clear their dues. It includes Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).
   - The integration will help resolve growing crisis in the clean energy sector and also aid India achieve its ambitious targets in renewable energy.
   **Related Keys**
   - GoI launched several steps to achieve the target of 100 GW of solar energy by December 2022.
   - The Union Government also permitted 100% FDI in the solar energy sector.

3. Which state currently ranks 11th in the list of world’s tops 100 destinations and is to gain 8th rank in 2019?
   **Answer:** Delhi
   **Explanation:**
   - The National Capital has been witnessing soaring popularity and wellness tourism across the world. According to Euro Monitor International, Delhi currently ranks 11th in the list of world’s tops 100 destinations and is to gain 8th rank in 2019.
   - The ranking was released by the organization on December 3, 2019 under the title “Top 100 city destination ranking”
   **Related Keys**
   - Euro Monitor International Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.

December 5

1. Which Cabinet was notified of Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between India and
Germany regarding strategic cooperation on Railways projects?
Answer: Union Cabinet
Explanation:
- **Union Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was notified of **Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI)** between **India and Germany** regarding strategic cooperation on Railways projects.
- The Joint Declaration of Intent was signed by Union Ministry of Railways with Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of Federal Republic of Germany in November 2019.

**Related News**
- Germany Capital and largest city – **Berlin**
- Germany Currency - **Euro**

2. Which Union Government has launched the fourth round of UDAN (UdeDeshKaAamNagrik) to enhance the connectivity to regional areas of the country?
Answer: India
Explanation:
- The **Union Government of India** has launched the **fourth round of UDAN (UdeDeshKaAamNagrik)** to enhance the connectivity to regional areas of the country. This phase is to focus on **Hilly states, North East Region, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir and Islands**.

**Related News**
- In phase 1, around 43 airports were constructed under the scheme.
- In phase 2, around 30 airports were constructed and in phase 3, 33 airports were constructed.

**December 6**

1. Who launched a smart learning phone application “Madhu” app for school children?
Answer: Naveen Patnaik
Explanation:
- Chief Minister of Odisha, **Naveen Patnaik** launched a smart learning phone application “**Madhu**” app for school children. The app named after **Utkal Courab Madhusudan Das**. This app is aimed at helping school students in learning their lessons through videos and tutorials.

**Related Keys**
- **Odisha Capital**: Bhubaneswar
- **Odisha Governor**: Ganeshi Lal

2. Who launched the “Bharatiya Poshan Anthem” to all corners of the country?
Answer: M Venkaiah Naidu
Explanation:
- Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** launched the “**Bharatiya Poshan Anthem**” which aims at taking the message of making India malnutrition-free by 2022 to all corners of the country.
- The anthem was conceptualised by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, penned by noted lyricist Prasoon Joshi and sung by Shankar.
Mahadevan.
  - The Mumbai Central Terminus of the Western Railway has been certified as India’s first "Eat Right Station" with a 4-Star rating awarded by the FSSAI.

3. Who said honour came on the basis of compliance of food safety and hygiene and promotion of local and seasonal foods and creating awareness on food safety and a healthy diet?
   **Answer:** Ravinder Bhakar
   **Explanation:**
   - The honour came on the basis of compliance of food safety and hygiene, availability of healthy diet, food handling at preparation, trans-shipment and retail/serving points, food waste management, promotion of local and seasonal foods and creating awareness on food safety and a healthy diet, said Western Railway chief spokesperson RavinderBhakar
   **Related Keys**
   - FSSAI Founded: August 2011
   - FSSAI Headquarters: **New Delhi**

**December 7**

1. Which Ministry has sanctioned a sum 100 crore rupees from Nirbhaya Fund for setting up and strengthening of Women Help Desks in Police Stations?
   **Answer:** Union Home Ministry
   **Explanation:**
   - **Union Home Ministry** has sanctioned a sum 100 crore rupees from Nirbhaya Fund for setting up and strengthening of Women Help Desks in Police Stations. This scheme would be implemented by the States and Union Territories.
   - The Help Desks would focus on making the Police Stations more women-friendly and approachable, as they would be the first and single point of contact for any woman walking into a police station.
   **Related Keys**
   - Union Home Ministry Formed 15 August 1947
   - Union Home Ministry Headquarters - **North Block, New Delhi**.

2. Who inaugurated the 3rd edition of National Public Procurement Conclave in New Delhi?
   **Answer:** PiyushGoyal, SomParkash
   **Explanation:**
   - Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Railways, PiyushGoyal along with Minister of State of Commerce and Industry, SomParkash, inaugurated the 3rd edition of National Public Procurement Conclave in New Delhi.
   - The two-day conclave has been organized by Government e-Marketplace (GeM) in association with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
   **Related Keys**
   - GeM has now introduced **GeM 3.0**, which is a more robust, flexible e-marketplace with an intuitive User Interface (UI) to make procurement of Goods and Services simpler than ever.
3. Who laid foundation stone of India’s first Ganga centralise daqualab at Wildlife Institute of India (WII) Dehradun, Uttarakhand?
   Answer: Shri Harak Singh Rawat
   Explanation:
   - The Uttarakhand state forest minister Shri Harak Singh Rawat laid foundation stone of India’s first Ganga centralise daqualab at Wildlife Institute of India (WII) Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
   - The aqualabs will be set up under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). Various aquatic life forms found in the 2525-kilometer-long Ganga river would be preserved in the lab WII.
   Related Keys:
   - Uttarakhand Capital: Dehradun
   - Uttarakhand Literacy (2011): 79.63% (17th)

December 8
1. Which government launched a booklet on the life and teachings of Dr. BR. Ambedkar for students of class 6-8 in government schools?
   Answer: Delhi
   Explanation:
   - The Delhi government launched a booklet on the life and teachings of Dr. BR Ambedkar for students of class 6-8 in government schools. The booklet was launched on Ambedkar’s 63rd death anniversary.
   - It is a three-part booklet. It explores the life and education of Ambedkar, his social reforms initiatives, contribution to women empowerment.
   Related Keys:
   - Ambedkar’s Full name: BhimraoRamjiAmbedkar
   - Ambedkar was Born: 14 April 1891,

2. Which company announced changes in its health insurance policy in order to provide benefits to employees involved in LGBT employees, a same-sex relationship?
   Answer: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
   Explanation:
   - Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced changes in its health insurance policy in order to provide benefits to employees involved in LGBT employees, a same-sex relationship. TCS became the first Tata Group companies to bring the change.
   - The change in health insurance policy will benefit all bisexual, lesbian, gay, and transgender or LGBT employees in the company.
   Related Keys:
   - TCS CEO: Rajesh Gopinathan
   - TCS Chairman: Natarajan Chandrasekaran

December 9
1. Who is the founder of Human Library?
   Answer: Ms K Pavithra

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Explanation:
- In Karnataka, Human Library, a concept which seeks to replace books with humans, will be held in the City of Palaces, Mysuru.
- In a statement, Ms K Pavithra, founder of Human Library, Mysuru said, the first event of Human Library aims to break past long-standing prejudices and stereotypes by creating a safe framework for conservation by using a library analogy of lending people rather than books.

**Related Keys**
- Karnataka Chief minister: B. S. Yediyurappa
- Karnataka Capital: Bengaluru

2. Which government launched Anti-Depredation Squads of the state forest department to control the human-elephant conflicts?

**Answer:** Assam

**Explanation:**
- Aiming to control the human-elephant conflicts, the Assam government launched Anti-Depredation Squads of the state forest department. The squad would be stationed at 15 major human-wildlife conflict districts in order to mitigate the problem and to ensure the safety of both humans and wildlife.
- The state forest department engaged specially trained 50 frontline staff to handle conflict situations.

**Related Keys**
- Assam Capital: Dispur
- Assam Literacy (2011): 72.19%

**December 10**

1. Which Ministry has invited bids after the launch of the fourth phase of UDAN in December 2019?

**Answer:** Ministry of Civil Aviation

**Explanation:**
- MoCA invites bids for the fourth phase of UDAN Scheme. Under the fourth phase, MoCA is to provide additional Viability Gap Funding (VGF) of around 25% to the airlines. **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** has invited bids after the launch of the fourth phase of UDAN in December 2019. It invited bids for 3 unserved airports/airstrips in Andaman & Nicobar Island and 1 underserved airport/airstrip in Lakshadweep Island. The aim is to focus on the connectivity of the Islands under UDAN 4.0.

**Related keys:**
- UDAN scheme: Launched on: 27 April 2017
- Located at: Delhi
- Ministry: Ministry of Civil Aviation (India)

**December 11**

1. Who introduced the Anti-Maritime bill in parliament?

**Answer:** Jaishankar

**Explanation:**
On December 10, 2019, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar introduced the Anti-Maritime bill in parliament. The bill was introduced in days after the kidnapping of 18 Indians aboard in Nigeria. It aims at ensuring safety and security of India’s maritime trade and the crew members.

The bill is framed in accordance with the UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea).

Related Keys
- The UNCOS or the Laws of the sea was framed at the third UN Conference that was held between 1973 and 1982.
- As of 2016, 167 countries including the European Union have joined UNCLOS.

December 12

1. In which state the fourth edition of International Seminar cum Exhibition on Naval Weapon Systems ‘NAVARM-19’ is scheduled?
   Answer: New Delhi

   Explanation:
   - The theme of this day is “Make in India - Fight Category, Opportunities and Imperatives”.

   Related Keys
   - The 3rd edition of NAVARM held in 2013 was the biggest conference of its kind.
   - Over 300 delegates interacted with senior officers of Indian Navy.

2. In which country ranks among the top 10 in this year’s Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)?
   Answer: India

   Explanation:
   - India, for the first time, ranks among the top 10 in this year’s Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) released at the COP25 climate summit in Spanish capital Madrid. The current levels of per capita emissions and energy use in India ranked 9th in the high category showing that emissions are still comparatively low.

   Related Keys
   - India’s 2030 renewable energy target is rated very high for its well-below 2 degrees Celsius compatibility.

3. Which Cabinet approved Aircraft (Amendment) bill, 2019 to amend the Aircrafts act, 1934?
   Answer: Union Cabinet

   Explanation:
   - The Union Cabinet on December 11, 2019 approved Aircraft (Amendment) bill, 2019 to amend the Aircrafts act, 1934. The main objective of the bill is to fulfill the safety requirements of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
4. Which government decided to set up 45 fast track courts in the State, to expedite the trial of cases relating to women and children?

Answer: Odisha Government

Explanation:
- **Odisha Government** has decided to set up 45 fast track courts in the State, to expedite the trial of cases relating to women and children. The State government’s action comes after Centre has decided to formulate a scheme for setting up 1,023 fast track special courts for expeditious trial and disposal of rape cases.

Related Keys
- Odisha Capital: Bhubaneswar
- Odisha Governor: Ganeshi Lal

December 13

1. Which industries have signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly build a technology platform to prevent food wastage and encouraging food?

Answer: Indian IT and Business Process Outsourcing industry

Explanation:
- **Food regulator FSSAI** (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) and Nasscom Foundation, a trade association of Indian IT and Business Process Outsourcing industry, have signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly build a technology platform to prevent food wastage and encouraging food donation by developing an app for the purpose.

   Related Keys
   - FSSAI Headquarters: New Delhi
   - FSSAI Founded: August 2011.

2. Which Sabha approving The Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019?

Answer: Rajya Sabha

Explanation:
- **The Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019** has been passed by the Parliament, with the Rajya Sabha approving it. 125 members supported the legislation while 105 opposed it. The House also negated the amendments moved by Opposition parties while approving the Bill.

   - The bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 9 December. 311 members had voted in its favour and 80 members opposing it.

3. Which Act that provides for harsher punishments, including death sentence to those guilty of heinous crimes against women?

Answer: Disha Act

Explanation:
- The **Andhra Pradesh Cabinet** approved the enactment of the Andhra Pradesh
Criminal Law (Amendment) Act also known as the Disha Act that provides for harsher punishments, including death sentence to those guilty of heinous crimes against women.

- As announced earlier in the assembly by Chief Minister, in the presence of adequate conclusive evidence in cases of crime against women such as rape, acid attacks among others the judgment must be pronounced within 21 days and trial must be completed in 14 days.

**Related Keys**
- Andhra Pradesh Governor: **Biswa Bhanu Harichandan**
- Andhra Pradesh Literacy rate: 67.41% (2011)

4. Which State will be held a three-day National Tribal Dance Festival?

**Answer:** Chhattisgarh's

**Explanation:**
- A **three-day National Tribal Dance Festival** will be held in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur from December 27 to 29.
- In the event international folk artists from 23 states and six other countries are expected to take part and portray their respective tribal folk culture.

**Related Keys**
- Chhattisgarh Governor: **Anusuiya Uikey**
- Chhattisgarh Chief minister: **Bhupesh Baghel**

**December 14**

1. Which organization signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Board of Agriculture and Rural Development?

**Answer:** Indian Council of Agricultural Research

**Explanation:**
- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Board of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on 13 December to promote sustainable agriculture and climate-resilient farming systems.

**Related keys:**
- The MoU aims to facilitate the action research that is carried out with the active participation of farmers to provide solutions for the challenges.
- Under the MoU, the ICAR will support training and capacity building of channel partners and NABARD Officers.

2. Whomet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and lobbyed for the coastal state's case in the inter-state dispute over the waters of Mohadeiver?

**Answer:** Satya Pal

**Explanation:**
- Goa Governor meets PM over Kalasa-Banduri project
- Three days before the Congress is scheduled to stage a dharma in the national capital over the Union Environment Ministry's nod to Karnataka's Kalasa-Banduri water diversion project, Goa Governor Satya Pal Malik met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and lobbyed for the coastal state's case in the inter-state
dispute over the waters of Mhadei river.

- **Related keys:**
  - Karnataka's Kalasa - Banduri water diversion project,
  - Goa Governor - Satya Pal Malik

**December 15**

1. Who chaired the first meeting of the National Ganga Council in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh on 14 December?
   **Answer:** Shri Narendra Modi
   **Explanation:**
   - **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** chaired the first meeting of the National Ganga Council in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh on 14 December.
   - **Aim:**
     - The first meeting of the Council was aimed to reinforce the importance of a Ganga-centric approach in all departments of the concerned states and relevant Central Ministries.
   - **Related Keys:**
     - The Council is given overall responsibility for superintendence of pollution prevention and rejuvenation of River Ganga Basin, including Ganga and its tributaries.

2. How many lakh farmers across India have been registered on the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform?
   **Answer:** 1,65,000 lakh
   **Explanation:**
   - **Government** said that over 1,65,000 lakh farmers across India have been registered on the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform.
   - The announcement was made by the **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh**
   - **Related Keys:**
     - National Agriculture Market or eNAM is an online trading platform for agricultural commodities in India. The market facilitate farmers, traders and buyers with online trading in commodities.

3. Which Ministry announced that FASTags will become mandatory for all vehicles from 15 December?
   **Answer:** Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
   **Explanation:**
   - **The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** had announced that FASTags will become mandatory for all vehicles, private and commercial from 15 December. Earlier the deadline was set to 1 December 2019.
   - If the vehicle owners do not have a FASTag, they should pay twice the regular amount if you pass a toll booth and your vehicle. Incubators that are established by the government or private sector as a startup grant.
   - **Related Keys:**
     - FASTag is an electronic toll collection system. The prepaid rechargeable tags that
employ Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly from the prepaid or savings account linked to it or directly to toll owner.

**December 16**

1. Which Ministry of Coal announced that it is to establish a Sustainable Development Cell in the country?
   - **Answer**: Ministry of Coal
   - **Explanation**:
     - The Ministry of Coal announced that it is to establish a Sustainable Development Cell in the country. The cell will gain significance as the new private entities will form a significant part of the future.
     - The aim of the cell is to promote environmentally sustainable coal mining in India.
   - **Related Keys**:
     - The Sustainable Development Cell (SDC) will plan, advise, mentor, and monitor the mitigation measures that are taken by the coal companies to maximize the utilization of available resources in a sustainable way.

2. Which police was honoured with the President’s Colours award on 15 December 2019?
   - **Answer**: Gujarat
   - **Explanation**:
     - Gujarat Police was honoured with the President’s Colours award on 15 December 2019. Gujarat became the seventh state police force in India to be bestowed with the honour of the President’s Colours.
     - It was presented by the Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu. He paid homage to the martyrs of Gujarat Police.
     - The President’s Colours is also called NISHAAN.
   - **Related Keys**:
     - The President’s Colour is the highest honour bestowed upon a police force in India.
     - Earlier, it was awarded to states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Tripura and Assam.

**December 17**

1. Which Department announced that it is mandatory to link the PAN with Aadhaar by the end of 2019 on 15 December?
   - **Answer**: Income Tax
   - **Explanation**:
     - The Income Tax Department announced that it is mandatory to link the PAN with Aadhaar by the end of 2019 on 15 December.
     - It announced that the deadline for the linking of the Permanent Account Number (PAN) with Aadhaar was extended till 31 December by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) through an order issued in September 2019.
   - **Related Keys**:
     - UIDAI is recognized as a statutory authority. It was set up on 12 July 2016 by the
Government under the provisions of the Aadhaar Act 2016.
- UIDAI is headquartered in New Delhi. It has around 8 regional offices in India. It is responsible for the enrollment, authentication, and management of all stages in the development of the Aadhaar life cycle.

2. Which Exercise is the second edition of Joint Tri-Services?
**Answer:** INDRA-2019
**Explanation:**
- Exercise INDRA-2019 is the second edition of Joint Tri-Services
- Exercise between the Indian Armed Forces and the Russian Armed Forces. It is being conducted from 10-20 December 2019 simultaneously at Pune and Gwalior for Air Force elements.
  **Related Keys:**
- Indian Air Force (IAF) is undertaking service-specific and joint missions during the exercise.
- The Russian Federation Air Force (RFAF) element is also participating in the exercise along with IAF counterparts.
- The exercise showcased the long-standing bond between India and Russia.

**December 18**

1. Who launched the National Outreach Programme in New Delhi on 17 December 2019?
**Answer:** Anup Wadhawan
**Explanation:**
- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) launched GEM Samvaad, the National Outreach Programme in New Delhi on 17 December 2019.
- The programme was launched by Anup Wadhawan, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Chairman, GeM. The outreach programme will be held from 19 Dec 2019 to 17 Feb 2020. It will cover all the States and UTs of the country.
  **Related Keys**
- GEM Samvaad is available on GeM website https://gem.gov.in
- GeM has processed more than 28 lakh orders worth Rs.40,000 crores in Gross Merchandise Value out of which 50% has been transacted by MSMEs.

2. Which state government launched two social welfare schemes to honour differently-abled people?
**Answer:** Kerala
**Explanation:**
- Kerala launched schemes to support differently-abled people
- The Kerala state government launched two social welfare schemes to honour differently-abled people and NSS, NCC and Student Police Cadet (SPC) units working for their care and welfare. The schemes are Vijayamirtham and Sahachari.
  **Related Keys**
- The Vijayamirtham scheme was introduced to provide financial assistance for differently-abled people who fought the odds and scored high marks in degree,
PG and professional courses.
- Sahachari Scheme is to honour groups that assist people, with over 40% disability, in their studies and other tasks.

**December 19**

1. Which organization Plans to include eggs, fish, chicken, and meat, possibly through its public distribution system?
   **Answer:** Niti Aayog
   **Explanation:**
   - Niti Aayog Plans to **include eggs, fish, chicken, and meat, possibly through its public distribution system**.
   - This is expected to be part of Niti Aayog's 15-year Vision Document. The document will be in place by early 2020 with effect from 1 April 2020.
   **Related Keys**
   - The aim of the proposal is to improve India's low nutrition ranking at the global level.
   - If it is implemented, these food items will join the food subsidy programme along with wheat, rice, coarse grains and a few varieties of pulses.

**December 20**

1. Who inaugurated the new Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) Wellness Centre at Vikaspuri, New Delhi?
   **Answer:** Dr. Harsh Vardhan
   **Explanation:**
   - Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the **new Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) Wellness Centre** at Vikaspuri, New Delhi.
   - CGHS service serves 12.09 lakh primary cardholders and 35.72 lakh beneficiaries.
   **Related Keys**
   - CGHS services
   - CGHS services have been planned to be extended to 100 cities.
   - Currently, the scheme is operational across 72 Cities through 329 Allopathic Wellness Centres and 86 AYUSH Centres.

2. In which place 11th Regional Quality Conclave (RQC) was held?
   **Answer:** Uttarakhand
   **Explanation:**
   - The **11th Regional Quality Conclave (RQC) was held on 20th December 2019 at, Rudrapur, District Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand**.
   - The Conclave will be inaugurated by MadanKaushik, Minister of Urban Development Government of Uttarakhand.
   **Related Keys**
   - The RQC is organized by the Quality Council of India (QCI) along with PHDCCI.
   - The theme of the Rudrapur RQC is "Advance Manufacturing with Quality,"
Innovation & Technology Interventions.

December 21
1. Which Countries discuss the issues in the implementation of Chabahar port in Iran?
   Answer: Afghanistan and Iran
   Explanation:
   ○ On December 20, 2019, India, Afghanistan and Iran met at New Delhi to discuss the issues in the implementation of Chabahar port in Iran. The port is considered as a gateway of opportunities with Central Asian Nations by all the three countries.
   Related Keys:
   ○ Chabahar port Opened: 1983
   ○ The work of the Chabahar port is being conducted by the Port Global Ltd Company and the progress of the project was welcomed by all three countries.

December 22
1. Who said that Union Railways looking at a 50 lakh crore rupees investment over the next 12 years?
   Answer: Piyush Goyal
   Explanation:
   ○ Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said that Union Railways looking at a 50 lakh crore rupees investment over the next 12 years.
   ○ The joint ventures so that it can modernize the railways, bring down the logistics cost and improve the share of freight in the railway network and make the journey world-class.
   Related Keys:
   ○ Indian Railways availed the Proliferation of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches, which are technologically superior, have better speed potential, aesthetics, and safety features.

2. Who take home a stock package worth $240 million on top of a $2 million annual salary in 2020?
   Answer: Alphabet, Sundar Pichai
   Explanation:
   ○ Alphabet and Google chief executive officer (CEO) Sundar Pichai take home a stock package worth $240 million on top of a $2 million annual salary in 2020.
   ○ He named the CEO of Alphabet this month as the co-founders decided to relinquish their current positions in Alphabet, the parent company of the online search giant. That made India-born Sundar Pichai the CEO of both Google and Alphabet.
   Related Keys:
   ○ He joined Google in 2004
   ○ He helped lead the development of Google Toolbar
   ○ He focused on developing products and services, powered by the latest advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI)
December 23
1. Which Government has constructed Girls’ Hostel for Nepal Armed Police Force (APF) School in Kirtipur, Kathmandu?
   **Answer:** Government of India
   **Explanation:**
   - The **Government of India** has constructed Girls’ Hostel for Nepal Armed Police Force (APF) School in Kirtipur, Kathmandu. The hostel building built with Indian assistance was formally handed over to the school by Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Dr. Ajay Kumar.
   - The project was implemented by Nepal Armed Police Force (APF).
   **Related Keys**
   - Nepal Armed Police Force Founded: 24 October 2001
   - Nepal Armed Police Force Headquarters location: Kathmandu, Nepal
   - It has over 21% of girls students.

December 24
1. Which Organization has produced its 3000th coach of the year in less than nine months?
   **Answer:** ICF of Indian Railways, Chennai
   **Explanation:**
   - **Integral Coach Factory (ICF) of Indian Railways, Chennai** has produced its 3000th coach of the year in less than nine months. This would help in meeting the growing demand for coaches.
   - The number of working days to achieve the above figure has been reduced from 289 days in the last year to 215 days in the current year.
   **Related Keys**
   - Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Founded: 1955
   - Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Headquarters: Chennai, Tamilnadu, India.

2. What is another name for 40-day harshest winter period in Kashmir?
   **Answer:** ‘Chillai-Kalan’
   **Explanation:**
   - The **40-day harshest winter period in Kashmir**, known in the local parlance as ‘Chillai-Kalan’, began with the upper reaches of the valley receiving snowfall.
   - Chillai-Kalan begins from December 21 and ends on January 31 next year. It is followed by a 20-day long Chillai-Khurd that occurs between January 31 and February 19 and a 10-day long Chillai-Bachha which is from February 20 to March 2.

3. Which Ministry announced that Indian Railways is set to receive modern signaling systems?
   **Answer:** Ministry of Railways
   **Explanation**
   - On December 23, 2019, **Ministry of Railways** announced that Indian Railways is set to receive modern signaling systems. According to the ministry, it is one of the most ambitious projects of **Indian Railways**. This is because the project improves safety, line capacity allowing trains to run at higher speeds.
- The plan will be implemented after approval from NITI Aayog, CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs) and Extended Board of Railways.

**Related Keys**
- Ministry of Railways Founded: 16 April 1853.
- Ministry of Railways Headquarters: **Rail Bhavan, New Delhi**.

4. Which Ministry announced that urban areas of 35 states (which also includes union territories) have been declared Open Defecation Free?

**Answer:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

**Explanation:**
- On December 23, 2019, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs announced that urban areas of **35 states** (which also includes union territories) have been declared Open Defecation Free. It includes **4,167 cities**. The target has been achieved through third party verification.
- According to the ministry, the target has been achieved by constructing 65.81 lakh household toilets as against the target of 59 lakhs.

**Related Keys**
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Founded: 1952
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Headquarters: **New Delhi**

**December 25**

1. Which Government launched Good Governance Index?

**Answer:** Government of India

**Explanation:**
- On December 25, 2019, **Government of India** launched Good Governance Index. **Tamil Nadu topped in Good Governance Index.** The States and Union Territories were divided into 3 groups namely Big states, North East and hill states and union territories.
- Tamil Nadu topped in Good Governance Index in the “Big States” category. It was followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh.

**Related Keys**
- In Agricultural and allied ranking, the best performing states were **Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and Daman and Diu**.

2. In which place NITI Aayog, the policy think tank of Government will launch the second edition of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index?

**Answer:** New Delhi

**Explanation:**
- **NITI Aayog**, the policy think tank of Government will launch the second edition of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index and Dashboard 2019–20 on 30 December 2019 at NITI Aayog, New Delhi. The **first edition of SDG India Index was launched in December 2018**.
- It was the first tool developed by any large country to monitor progress towards
achieving SDGs at sub-national level.

Related Keys
- Index and Dashboard 2019 covers 16 out of 17 SDGs and a qualitative assessment on Goal 17.

   Answer: Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
   Explanation:
   - On December 25, 2019, Union Minister of Communication and IT Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated “Digital Village Guruwara”. During the launch, it was announced that the Government has planned to offer free Wi-Fi services to all villages till March 2020.
   - The Government of India has so far connected 1,30,000 gram panchayats through Bharatnet.

Related Keys
- The GoI in June 2018 announced that all gram panchayats will receive broadband connectivity by 2020.
- Bharatnet initiative was launched in 2011.

4. Who has approved the creation of a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) post that will function as a single point of contact for different branches of armed forces?
   Answer: Narendra Modi
   Explanation:
   - The Cabinet Committee On Security (CCS) chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the creation of a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) post that will function as a single point of contact for different branches of armed forces.
   - CCS also approved the report of a high-level committee headed by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, which finalised responsibilities and framework for operation of CDS.

Related Keys
- A CDS would be a four-star general- from either of the Indian Armed Forces- the Army, the Air Force or the Navy and will be payable to a salary equal to a service chief.

December 26
1. Which Fund has been formed in 2018?
   Answer: FIDF
   Explanation:
   - The first tripartite Memorandum of Agreement has been signed between the
department of Fisheries Government of India, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and the Government of Tamil Nadu for the implementation of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund (FIDF).

**Related Keys**
- The **Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)** has been formed in 2018.

2. Which Railways has decided to modernize its Signalling system on its entire network by implementing Modern Train Control System (MTCS)?

**Answer:** Indian Railways

**Explanation:**
- **Indian Railways** has decided to modernize its Signalling system on its entire network by implementing **Modern Train Control System (MTCS)**. This is one of the most ambitious modernization projects which envisages up-graduation of a signaling system for improving safety, Line Capacity and to run trains at a higher speed.

**Related Keys**
- Indian Railways Founded: 16 April 1853
- Indian Railways Headquarters: New Delhi

3. Who unveiled a statue of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Lok Bhawan in Lucknow?

**Answer:** Narendra Modi

**Explanation:**
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** unveiled a statue of former Prime Minister **AtalBihari Vajpayee at Lok Bhawan in Lucknow**. The event coincides with the birth anniversary of AtalBihari Vajpayee, the co-founder of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- AtalBihari Vajpayee served three terms as the Prime Minister of India.

**Related Keys**
- AtalBihari Vajpayee Born: 25 December 1924
- AtalBihari Vajpayee Awards: **Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan**

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**December 27**

1. Which Ministry released five documents that were developed by UGC covering five verticals of quality mandate?

**Answer:** Union Ministry of Human Resource Development

**Explanation:**
- On December 26, 2019, the **Union Ministry of Human Resource Development** released five documents that were developed by **UGC** covering five verticals of quality mandate. The documents covered eco-friendly and sustainable university campuses, evaluation reforms, human values and professional ethics, academic research integrity and faculty induction.
Related News
- Ministry of Human Resource Development: Headquarters: New Delhi

2. In which place locusts, known as tiddis locally arriving from desert areas of Pakistan, descended?
   **Answer:** Gujarat
   **Explanation:**
   - The locusts, known as tiddis locally arriving from desert areas of Pakistan, descended in and around 20 taluks in the state Gujarat. It includes Banaskantha, Mehsana, Kutch, Patan and Sabarkantha districts over the last few days and wreaked havoc on standing crops of mustard, fennel, castor, cumin, cotton, potato, and fodder grass.

   Related News
   - Gujarat Capital: Gandhinagar
   - Gujarat Chief minister: **Vijay Rupani**

3. Who released a postage stamp here on Thursday to commemorate the distinguished service?
   **Answer:** Nirmala Sitharaman
   **Explanation:**
   - Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman released a postage stamp here on Thursday to commemorate the distinguished service and glorious contribution by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in protecting the nation.
   - The finance minister congratulated all officers and staff of DRI on their commitment to duty and determined and collaborative efforts to counter smuggling activities in the country.

   Related News
   - Finance ministry: Founded: 29 October 1946
   - Finance ministry Headquarters: New Delhi

4. Who is scheduled to visit Balangir district of Odisha today to inaugurate an LPG bottling plant of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited?
   **Answer:** M Venkaiah Naidu
   **Explanation:**
   - Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu is scheduled to visit Balangir district of Odisha today to inaugurate an LPG bottling plant of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and to attend the platinum jubilee function of Rajendra College in Balangir.
   - The bottling plant has been established at an expenditure of 103 crore rupees and has capacity of manufacturing 42 lakh cylinders annually. The bottling plant will benefit residents of 14 western Odisha districts.

   Related News

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- Odisha Capital: Bhubaneswar
- Odisha Governor: Ganeshi Lal

**December 28**

1. **Which Festival has begun in Raipur?**
   **Answer:** 2019 edition of National Tribal Dance Festival
   **Explanation:**
   - The **2019 edition of National Tribal Dance Festival** has begun in Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh. The **three-day dance fest** will be held from 27-29 December 2019. The festival was inaugurated by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and the inaugural function was presided over by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.
   - Over 1300 participants from 25 states & Union Territories (UT) of India are participating in this national event.
   **Related Keys**
   - The National Tribal Dance Festival is an annual festival celebrated by the aborigines and tribal of India in the National Capital Region of India.

2. **Which Ministry has invited applications for Nari Shakti Puraskar for the year 2019?**
   **Answer:** Ministry of Women and Child Development
   **Explanation:**
   - **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has invited applications for Nari Shakti Puraskar for the year 2019. The National Award is given annually to individuals, groups, institutions in recognition of their exceptional work towards the cause of women empowerment, especially for vulnerable and marginalized women.
   - Nearly 40 Nari Shakti Puraskar will be given on International Women’s Day observed on 8th March 2020.
   **Related Key**
   - Ministry of Women and Child Development Founded: 30 January 2006

3. **Which government has decided to raise the retirement age of employees of the Road Transport Corporation?**
   **Answer:** Telangana government
   **Explanation:**
   - **Telangana government** has decided to raise the retirement age of employees of the Road Transport Corporation, RTC to 60 from the current age 58.
   - The decision will be applicable to all cadres of employees of the state-owned RTC.
   **Related Keys**
   - Telangana Capital: Hyderabad
   - Telangana Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan
December 29
1. Which Ministry has included Madagascar and Comoros in the Indian Ocean Region Division?
   Answer: Ministry of External Affairs
   Explanation:
   - Ministry of External Affairs has included Madagascar and Comoros in the Indian Ocean Region Division, which looks after India's maritime neighbours such as Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius and the Seychelles. Earlier these two island nations were looked after by East and South Africa Division of the MEA.

2. India got which rank in Knight Frank Global House Price Index Q3 2019?
   Answer: 47th
   Explanation:
   - The Knight Frank Global House Price Index Q3 2019 released, in which India ranked at 47th spot among 56 countries tracked in terms of appreciation in residential real estate prices with a marginal 0.6 per cent year-on-year rise in home prices. India stood at 11th position in the previous edition of the report with a 7.7 per cent year-on-year rise in home prices.
   - Slow sales, high inventory and lack of liquidity with developers have restricted rise in home prices.
   - Related Keys
   - The Knight Frank Global House Price Index tracks the performance of over 50 mainstream national housing markets around the world.

3. Which organization approved the revival plan of merging BSNL and MTNL?
   Answer: GoI
   Explanation:
   - On December 27, 2019, GoI constituted a 7-member group of ministers to fast track the implementation of revival plan of BSNL and MTNL. The revival plan includes allocation of 4G spectrum and asset monetization. Earlier, GoI approved the revival plan of merging BSNL and MTNL.
   - Related Keys
   - BSNL Founded: 15 September 2000
   - BSNL Headquarters: New Delhi

December 30
1. Who launched eBkray, an online platform to increase the transparency in auctioning of assets attached by banks?
   Answer: Nirmala Sitharaman
   Explanation:
   - Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Dec 28th launched eBkray, an online platform to increase the transparency in auctioning of assets attached by banks.
2. Who launched the mobile app of the forthcoming DefExpo 2020?

**Answer:** Shri Rajnath Singh

**Explanation:**
- Defence Minister **Shri Rajnath Singh** launched the mobile app of the forthcoming **DefExpo 2020**. The app is available on Play Store. The main features of the app are ‘inform, engage and feedback’.
- It provides detailed information about the day-to-day events; participating exhibitors; **Defence Public Sector Undertakings** (DPSUs), guest speakers of seminars/webinars; publications i.e., electronic brochures and e-books; maps and directions of the venues and city weather.

**Related News**
- Defence ministry Founded: 15 August 1947
- Defence ministry Headquarters: New Delhi

3. Which festival has been started in Mandu?

**Answer:** 5-day Mandu festival

**Explanation:**
- In **Madhya Pradesh**, the 5-day **Mandu festival** has been started in **Mandu**, a world-famous picturesque tourist destination located in Dhar district of the state.
- The Mandu festival, which will run till January 1, will see the amalgamation of cultural activities as well as adventure sports.

**Related News**
- Madhya Pradesh Capital: Bhopal
- Madhya Pradesh Governor: **Lalji Tandon**

4. Which Radio organized the National Symposium of Poets 2020 on 27 December 2019?

**Answer:** All India Radio (AIR)

**Explanation:**
- **All India Radio (AIR)** organized the **National Symposium of Poets 2020** on 27 December 2019. This edition of poet symposium was attended by select poets from all corners of country, who gave their presentations and captivated the hearts of people.
- National symposium is organized continuously every year since 1956.

**Related News**
- All India Radio Founded: 1930, India
December 31
1. Who has said that ISRO is planning to launch a satellite called Aditya to study the sun?
   **Answer:** Narendra Modi
   **Explanation:**
   - Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has said that **ISRO** is planning to launch a satellite called **Aditya to study the sun**. The aim of the mission is to keep a permanent eye on the sun without any disturbance.
   - Aditya-L1 is meant to observe the solar corona. In his 'Mann kiBaat' programme of AIR, Mr Modi said, India is quite advanced in the field of astronomy and ISRO has taken path-breaking initiatives in this field.
   **Related News**
   - ISRO Founder: Vikram Sarabhai
   - ISRO Director: Kailasavadivoo Sivan

2. Who has released State of Forests Report?
   **Answer:** Prakash Javadekar
   **Explanation:**
   - On 30th December 2019, the **Union Environment Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar** has released the **State of Forests Report, 2019**. India State of Forest Report is released every two years and it provides comprehensive information about the forest cover, forest vegetation density, tree cover, progress of plantation outside the designated forests etc. for India as well as States.
   **Related News**
   - The total forest cover of the country is 7,12,249 sq km which is 21.67% of the geographical area of the country
   - The top five States in terms of increase in forest cover are Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

December 1
1. Who ranked as the 9th richest person globally in the Real-Time Billionaires List of Forb?
   **Answer:** Mukesh Ambani
   **Explanation:**
   - Reliance Industries (RIL) chief **Mukesh Ambani** ranked as the 9th richest person globally in the Real-Time Billionaires List of Forbes. His net worth was **$60 billion**.
   - Ambani made it to the daily list of the **top 10 richest people in the world**. Also, he became the first Indian firm to hit the **Rs.10 lakh crore** market valuation mark.

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Related Keys:
- Top 3 in the list:
  - The list was topped by Amazon Founder and CEO Jeff Bezos with a net worth of $113 billion
  - Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates ranked second with a net worth of $107.4 billion
  - Bernard Arnault & family Chairman and CEO, LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton ranked third with a net worth of $107.2 billion

December 2
1. Which report was released prior to United Nations Climate Conference to be held in Spain from 2 December 2019?
   **Answer:** UNEP Emissions Gap Report-2019
   **Explanation:**
   - Recently released United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Emissions Gap Report-2019 warns that the Earth’s average temperature may rise by 3.2 degrees Celsius by 2021. Moreover, despite all scientific warnings and political commitments emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) couldn’t decrease globally.
   - The report was released prior to United Nations Climate Conference (COP-25) to be held in Spain from 2 December 2019.
   **Related Keys**
   - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Formation - 5 June 1972;

2. Which Council announced the establishment of Aerospace and Defence Industry Group to boost bilateral cooperation in the areas?
   **Answer:** UKIBC
   **Explanation:**
   - The UK India Business Council (UKIBC) announced the establishment of Aerospace and Defence Industry Group to boost bilateral cooperation in the areas.
   - The initiative demonstrates close ties between Indian and United Kingdom’s aerospace and defence industry as well as recognises that UK-India relationship is at a critical turning point.
   **Related Keys**
   - UK India Business Council Founded in 1993

December 3
1. Which are two countries held their inaugural foreign and defence ministerial dialogue?
   **Answer:** India and Japan
   **Explanation:**
   - **India and Japan** on Saturday held their **inaugural foreign and defence ministerial dialogue**. **Rajnath Singh and S Jaishankar** led the Indian delegation while the Japanese side was headed by Toshimitsu Motegi and Taro Kono.
   - The meeting also deliberated on various key facts of India-Japan defence and
security cooperation

Related News
- Japan Capital: Tokyo
- Japan Currency: Japanese yen.

December 7
1. How many leaders of countries gather in London at 70th anniversary of the summit?
   Answer: 29
   Explanation:
   - The leaders of 29 countries gather in London at the summit. The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the summit. It was attended by NATO NATO.
   - NATO was founded in the wake of the Second leaders and chaired by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. World War by the U.S. and the main European powers as a means of military defense against Soviet Russia.

December 8
1. Which two countries are planning to sing a defence technology-sharing pact?
   Answer: India and the US
   Explanation:
   - India and the US are planning to sign a defence technology-sharing pact. The two countries will sign a deal at the 2+2 dialogue on 19 December in Washington, the US.
   - The Indian side will be led by defence minister Rajnath Singh and external affairs minister S Jaishankar to the dialogue.
   Related Keys:
   - US Currency: Dollar
   - US Prime Minister: Donald John Trump

2. In Which place annual summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe is expected to take place?
   Answer: Guwahati, Assam
   Explanation:
   - The annual summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe is to take place between 15-17 December 2019.
   - The announcement was made by the External Affairs Ministry. The summit is expected to take place in Guwahati, Assam.
   Related Keys:
   - The informal summit with Chinese premier Xi Jinping was held in Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu.

December 9
1. Who was selected by her Social Democratic party of Finland to become the country’s youngest prime minister ever?
   Answer: Sanna Marin
   Explanation:
   - The 34-year-old Sanna Marin, was selected by her Social Democratic party of...
Finland to become the **country’s youngest prime minister** ever, taking over after resignation of outgoing leader. Sanna Marin, who will now be youngest head of government in the country’s history, has earlier served as transport minister of Finland.

- Finland’s Parliament is expected to formally swear in the new prime minister on 10 December 2019.

**Related Keys**
- Finland Capital: Helsinki
- Finland Currency: Euro

**December 11**

1. **Which two countries have signed a deal to build drones with maximum payload of 480 kg?**
   **Answer:** China and Pakistan
   **Explanation:**
   - In order to secure the CPEC sea route, China and Pakistan have signed a deal to build drones with maximum payload of **480 kg**, with **top speed of 370 km per hour** and can fly up to **20 hours**. The drones are called Loong II. These drones are similar to the MQ-9 Reaper drones developed by the US.
   **Related Keys**
   - CPEC Established - 22 May 2013
   - CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor), a major part of China’s BRI project passes through the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir region.

2. **Which place has been selected as the world’s leading Sports tourism Destination at the 26th edition of the World Travel Awards (WTA) being held in Muscat?**
   **Answer:** Abu Dhabi
   **Explanation:**
   - Abu Dhabi has been selected as the world’s leading Sports tourism Destination at the 26th edition of the World Travel Awards (WTA) being held in Muscat. This is the seventh time in a row that Abu Dhabi has been selected for this coveted award.
   **Related Keys**
   - Abu Dhabi the second most populous city of the United Arab Emirates.
   - The World Travel Awards were founded in 1993.

**December 12**

1. **In which place the start of the electric aviation age, the world’s first fully-electric commercial aircraft took its inaugural test flight?**
   **Answer:** Vancouver, Canada
   **Explanation:**
   - Signifying the start of the electric aviation age, the world’s first fully-electric commercial aircraft took its inaugural test flight, in Vancouver, Canada. The technology would mean significant cost savings for airlines, not to mention zero emissions.
   - The range is enough to start the revolution, adding that batteries and electric
motors will eventually be developed to power longer flights.

**Related Keys**
- Canada Capital: **Ottawa**
- Canada Currency: Canadian dollar.

**December 13**

1. Which are three countries representatives inked a revamped version of their regional trade pact after months of negotiations?
   **Answer:** United States, Mexico and Canada
   **Explanation:**
   - The representatives from the **United States, Mexico and Canada** inked a revamped version of their regional trade pact after months of negotiations. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) will now go to the countries' legislatures for final approval.
   **Related Keys**
   - The accord is meant to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), a deal in place since 1994.
   - The NAFTA trade bloc is one of the largest trade blocs in the world by gross domestic product.

**December 14**

1. Which are two countries to finalize deal to develop special economic zone under CPEC?
   **Answer:** China, Pakistan
   **Explanation:**
   - **China, Pakistan** to finalize deal to develop special economic zone under **CPEC**
   - A team of **China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC)** is expected to visit Pakistan by the end of December to finalize an agreement for the development of the **Rashakai special economic zone (SEZ)** under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a Pakistani official said on Friday.
   **Related keys:**
   - China Road and Bridge Corporation - Rashakai special economic zone (SEZ) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

2. Which Ministry conducted an International Workshop on Energy Efficient Cooling from 12-13 December 2019 at Scope Convention Centre, New Delhi?
   **Answer:** BEE, Ministry of Power
   **Explanation:**
   - **BEE organized the International Workshop on Energy Efficient Cooling**
   - **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power**, conducted an **International Workshop on Energy Efficient Cooling** from 12-13 December 2019 at Scope Convention Centre, **New Delhi**. It was organized as a part of the Energy Conservation Week that was observed from 9-14 December 2019.
   **Related keys:**
   - The workshop was conducted by BEE in association with the International Energy Agency (IEA) under the SEAD initiative of Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM).
1. Which train service between Lahore and Wagah railway station resumed operation on 15 December 2019 after a gap of 22 years?
   **Answer:** shuttle train service
   **Explanation:**
   - The **shuttle train service** between Lahore and Wagah railway station resumed operation on 15 December 2019 after a gap of 22 years.
   - The train would complete three round trips daily as well as will provide the travelling facility to over **1,000 passengers in three trips**.
   **Related Keys:**
   - Shuttle train refers to a train that runs back and forth between two points, especially if it offers a frequent service over a short route.
   - They commonly operate as a fixed consist, and run non-stop between their termini.

2. Which news agency reported China feeds 22 per cent of the world's population with 7 percent the world's arable land?
   **Answer:** Xinhua news agency
   **Explanation:**
   - China feeds **22 per cent** of the world's population with 7 percent the world's arable land,” Qu said at the ongoing **World Youth Forum (WYF)** held at **Egypt's Red Sea resort city** of Sharm El Sheikh, the **Xinhua news agency** reported.
   - He said that Sound agricultural policy, innovation, and good management are keys to the Chinese success in achieving food security.
   **Related Keys:**
   - Capital- Beijing.
   - Currency- Remimibi

2. In which place seventh edition of Exercise Mitra Shakti-VII 2019 concluded on 14 December 2019?
   **Answer:** Aundh Military Station, Pune
   **Explanation:**
   - The **seventh edition of Exercise Mitra Shakti-VII 2019** concluded on 14 December 2019 at **Aundh Military Station, Pune**. The exercise was held between the **Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army**.
   - The exercise aimed to enhance the operational efficiency and interoperability between the Indian Army and Sri Lanka Army.
   **Related Keys:**
   - The exercise will involve tactical level operations in an international Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorist environment under United Nations mandate.
   - Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-VI will go a long way in further cementing relationship between both the nations and will act as a catalyst in bringing synergy and cooperation at grassroots levels between both the armies.
December 19
1. Which Organization reported that India has become the world's third-largest publisher of science and engineering articles?
Answer: shuttle train service
Explanation:
- The US National Science Foundation (NSF) reported that India has become the world's third-largest publisher of science and engineering articles.
- It has published over 1.35 lakh scientific papers. China topped the report as the world's largest publisher.
Related Keys
- Formed - May 10, 1950; 69 years ago
- Headquarters - Alexandria, Virginia, U.S.

December 20
1. Which Organization announced the names of the newly discovered stars and planets?
Answer: International Astronomical Union (IAU)
Explanation:
- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) announced the names of the newly discovered stars and planets, where the name "Sharjah" was chosen for a star with "Barjel" being the name of one of its planets. The announcement was made during a press conference of the IAU in the French capital, Paris.
- During the announcement, the organizers lauded the efforts and contributions of the Emirate of Sharjah to the global scientific community.
Related Keys
- International Astronomical Union Headquarters: Paris, France.
- International Astronomical Union Founded: 28 July 1919.

2. Who has become the third US President in history to be impeached by the House of Representatives?
Answer: Donald Trump
Explanation:
- Donald Trump has become the third US President in history to be impeached by the House of Representatives, setting up a trial in the Senate that will decide whether he remains in office. The House voted on two charges - that the President abused his power and that he had obstructed Congress.
- Nearly all Democrats voted for the charges and every Republican against.
Related Keys
- Only three U.S. presidents have been formally impeached by Congress so far
- The three US Presidents are Andrew Johnson, Bill Clinton and Donald Trump.

December 23
1. Which are countries have agreed to change the name of their common currency to Eco?
Answer: Eight West African countries
Explanation:
- Eight West African countries have agreed to change the name of their common currency to Eco and severed their earlier currency CFA Franc's links to former
December 24
1. Who was on a two-day visit to Iran between December 22-23, 2019?
   **Answer:** External Affairs Minister
   **Explanation:**
   - **External Affairs Minister** was on a two-day visit to Iran between December 22-23, 2019. During his visit he chaired the 19th Joint Commission Meeting with his Iranian Counterpart **Mohammad Javad Zarif**.
   - The leaders at the Joint Commission Meeting agreed to Strengthen and accelerate the Chabahar project.
   **Related Keys**
   - Iran Capital: Tehran
   - Iran President: Hassan Rouhani
   - Iran Currency: Iranian rial

December 25
1. Which Cabinet has given its approval for signing of MoU between Republic of India and Federative Republic of Brazil on Bio-energy Cooperation?
   **Answer:** Union Cabinet
   **Explanation:**
   - **Union Cabinet** has given its approval for signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Republic of India and Federative Republic of Brazil on Bio-energy Cooperation.
   - In 2016, during the meeting between Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and President of Brazil in India, the two sides agreed to cooperate on research and development (R&D) of renewable energies, and in field of 2nd-generation biofuels.
   **Related Keys**
   - Brazil is one of the most important trading partners of India in entire Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region.
   - Brazil is currently world’s 2nd largest producer and consumer of biofuels.

December 26
1. Which Government decided to import Polio markers from India?
   **Answer:** Pakistan Government
   **Explanation:**
The **Pakistan Government** decided to import **Polio markers from India**. The Government had suspended the trade with **New Delhi** for months after abrogation of Article 370.

- **There are three countries in the world where Polio is still endemic.** It includes Pakistan, Nigeria and Afghanistan.

**Related News**

- In 2014, Pakistan had the highest number of polio cases in the world.
- In 1995, India launched Global Polio Eradication initiative of WHO that aims at 100% coverage.

**December 28**

1. Which is the only country in the world that has hypersonic weapons?
   **Answer:** Russia
   **Explanation:**
   - **Russia** is the only country in the world that has hypersonic weapons—weapons that travel faster than Mach5 and have the capability to manœuvre during the entire flight.
   - Putin has said that the missile flies 10 times faster than the speed of sound, has a range of more than 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles) and can carry a nuclear or a conventional warhead.

   **Related Keys**
   - Russia Currency: Russian ruble.
   - Russia Capital: Moscow.

**December 29**

1. Which country received USD 452.4 million as a second tranche of the USD 6 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?
   **Answer:** Pakistan
   **Explanation:**
   - **Pakistan** received **USD 452.4 million** as a second tranche of the USD 6 billion loan from the **International Monetary Fund** (IMF). The IMF had approved the second tranche of the loan for Pakistan under the USD 6 billion Extended Fund Facility in a meeting of its executive board in **Washington** on December 20.
   - Pakistan had received the first tranche from IMF under its loan program in July.

   **Related Keys**
   - Pakistan Capital: Islamabad
   - Pakistan President: Arif Alvi

**December 31**

1. Which was believed to be the world’s oldest rhinocerous in a Tanzanian conservation area?
   **Answer:** Fausta
   **Explanation:**

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Fausta, a female black rhino, who was believed to be the world’s oldest rhino has died at the age of 57 in a Tanzanian conservation area. Fausta died of natural causes in captivity in Ngorongoro Crater, which lies in Ngorongoro Conservation Area of Tanzania.

Rhinoceros’ life expectancy is around 40 years in the wild but they can live an extra decade in captivity.

**Related News**
- Tanzania Capital: Dodoma
- Tanzania Currency: Tanzanian shilling

### IMPORTANT DAYS

**December 1**

1. In which day World AIDS Day is observed every year?
   **Answer:** 1 December
   **Explanation:**
   - World AIDS Day is observed on **1 December** every year. The day aims to raise public awareness about AIDS. The day aims to motivate the people who are infected by the fatal disease.
   - The theme of the 2019 World AIDS Day is Communities Makes The difference.

**December 2**

1. In which day National Pollution Control Day is observed?
   **Answer:** 2 December
   **Explanation:**
   - National Pollution Control Day is observed on **2 December** to raise awareness about the problem caused by increasing pollution. National Pollution Control Day is observed in the memory of those who have lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas tragedy on 2nd December, 1984.

**December 3**

1. In which day International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed?
   **Answer:** December 3rd
   **Explanation:**
   - **International Day of Persons with Disabilities** is observed on December 3rd which is an international observance promoted by the United Nations since 1992. It is observed to raise awareness and develop an understanding to accept people with disabilities by the United Nations.

**December 4**

1. In which day Navy Day is celebrated in India?
   **Answer:** 4 December
   **Explanation:**
- **Navy Day** in India is celebrated on 4 December every year to recognize the achievements and role of the Indian Navy to the country. Indian Navy Day is observed in remembrance of the start of Operation Trident during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971.

**December 5**
1. In which day World Soil Day is marked all over the world?
   **Answer:** December 5
   **Explanation:**
   - The **World Soil Day** is marked on **December 5** by the United Nations all over the world. It was endorsed by the **Food and Agriculture Organization** of the United Nations in 2013.
   - It was officially adopted through a resolution at the 68th UN General Assembly.

**December 6**
1. In which day National Miners Day is celebrated every year?
   **Answer:** December 6
   **Explanation:**
   - **National Miners Day** is celebrated on **December 6** every year to recognize their efforts. The Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 as well as the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 were created to oversee the safety and health of all miners.

**December 7**
1. In which day International Civil Aviation Day is observed every year?
   **Answer:** 7 December
   **Explanation:**
   - The **International Civil Aviation Day** is observed every year on 7 December across the world to generate and reinforce worldwide awareness of importance of international civil aviation to social and economic development.

   **Related Keys**
   - The International Civil Aviation Day was established in 1994 as part of ICAO’s 50th anniversary activities.
   - It was officially recognised in the UN system by the UN General Assembly in 1996.

**December 9**
1. In which day International Day of Anti-Corruption is marked by the United Nations every year?
   **Answer:** December 9
   **Explanation:**
   - The **International Day of Anti-Corruption** is marked by the **United Nations** every year on **December 9** since 2003. This year the day is being marked by the organization all over the world on the following theme
   - Theme: United Against Corruption
December 10
1. In which day Human Rights Day is observed?
   Answer: 10 December
   Explanation:
   o **Human Rights Day** is observed on **10 December**. The day aims to recognize and empower human rights. The day includes social, economic, cultural rights and international commitments on civil and political rights.
   o The theme of the 2019 Human Rights Day is **Youth Standing Up for Human Rights**. The United Nations kept the theme with a belief that the participation of youth is an essential element to achieve sustainable development for everyone.

December 11
1. In which day International Mountain Day is observed every year?
   Answer: December 11
   Explanation:
   o **International Mountain Day** is observed on **December 11** every year since 2003. The same day is celebrated in US and Japan as well as National Mountain Day. The US began to mark mountain day even before the UN since 1872.
   o Theme: Mountains matter for youth

December 14
1. In which day World Energy Conservation Day is observed?
   Answer: 14 December
   Explanation:
   o **World Energy Conservation Day** is observed on **14 December**. The day aims to highlight the importance of energy consumption. This Day creates a sense of urgency on the issues involved.
   o In India, the National Energy Conservation Day is observed on 14 December every year. The day is organized by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**, under the Ministry of Power. The day aims to showcase the achievements of the country in energy efficiency and conservation. National Energy Conservation Day celebrations are held in **New Delhi**.
   Related keys:
   o National Energy Conservation Day - 14 December
   o Ministry of Power - Bureau of Energy Efficiency

December 16
1. In which day Vijay Diwas day is celebrated every year?
   Answer: 16 December
   Explanation:
   o **Vijay Diwas** is celebrated on **16 December** every year. The day aims to commemorate the victory of India over Pakistan in 1971.
   o The day also a remembrance of the brave soldiers of India and **Mukti Joddhas** who sacrificed their lives for a noble cause.
   Related Keys:
   o On 16 December 1971, the chief of the Pakistani forces, General AA Khan Niazi,
along with 93 thousand troops, surrendered to the allied forces consisting of the Indian Army and Mukti Bahani.

- The war culminated with the subsequent secession of East Pakistan into Bangladesh.

December 18

1. In which day Minorities Rights Day is observed in India?
   
   **Answer:** 18 December
   
   **Explanation:**
   - **Minorities Rights Day** is observed on **18 December** in India.
   - The day aims to remind about the **rights of minorities** and to educate people about it. It focuses on the religious harmony, respect, and better understanding of all minorities' communities in India.

December 20

1. In which day International Human Solidarity Day is observed?
   
   **Answer:** 20 December
   
   **Explanation:**
   - **International Human Solidarity Day** is observed on **20 December**.
   - The day celebrates unity in diversity.
   - **Aim:**
   - The Day aims to raise **public awareness of the importance of solidarity.** It encourages debate on the ways to promote solidarity for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) including poverty eradication.

December 22

1. In which day National Mathematics Day is observed every year?
   
   **Answer:** 22 December
   
   **Explanation:**
   - **National Mathematics Day** is observed on **22 December** every year to mark the birth anniversary of legendary Indian mathematician, **Srinivasa Ramanujan** and his contributions in the field of mathematics.
   - The **125th birth anniversary** of the great mathematician Srinivasa Iyengar Ramanujan declared as National Mathematics Day.

December 23

1. In which day National Farmers Day is celebrated in India?
   
   **Answer:** 23rd December
   
   **Explanation:**
   - India celebrates **National Farmers Day** on **23rd December** to commemorate the birth anniversary of the 5th Prime Minister of India, **Choudhary Charan Singh**. He was a farmer's leader and he had introduced many policies to improve the lives of the Indian farmers.

   **Related Keys**
   - Choudhary Charan Singh served as the Prime Minister of India between 28 July 1979 and 14 January 1980.

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His memorial in New Delhi is named as Kisan Ghat.

SCIENCE & TECH UPDATES

December 1
1. Which Navy successfully test-fired the 290 km strike range Brahmos supersonic cruise missile?
   Answer: Indian Navy
   Explanation:
   - **Indian Navy** successfully test-fired the **290 km strike range Brahmos supersonic cruise missile**. The supersonic cruise missile was test-fired in the Arabian Sea.
   - Related News:
     - **BrahMos** is a medium-range supersonic cruise missile
     - It can be launched from ships, aircraft, or land.

December 3
1. In which place first night trial of long-range nuclear capable Agni-III surface-to-surface Ballistic Missile was carried out?
   Answer: Odisha coast
   Explanation:
   - The first night trial of long-range nuclear capable **Agni-III surface-to-surface Ballistic Missile** was carried out at **Integrated Test Range (ITR) at APJ Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast**. However, the Agni-III missile’s maiden night trial ended in “failure”.
   - It is not the first failure of Agni series missile as in the past, two other variants of missile, Agni-I and Agni-II, have failed during both development and user trials.
   - Related Keys
     - Agni-III developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation.
     - It has already been inducted in Indian armed forces in 2011.

December 4
1. Which Organization released a mosaic image of the site on 26th of September and invited the public to search it for signs of the lander?
   Answer: NASA
   Explanation:
   - NASA released an image taken by its **Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, LRO** that showed the site of the spacecraft’s impact and associated debris field on 6th of September.
   - NASA released a mosaic image of the site on 26th of September and invited the public to search it for signs of the lander.
   - Related Keys
     - NASA Formed: July 29, 1958
     - NASA Headquarters: **Washington, D.C., United States**
December 6
1. Which Organization has set-up a Space Technology Incubation Centre (S-TIC) at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirappalli?
   
   Answer: ISRO
   
   Explanation:
   - ISRO has set-up a Space Technology Incubation Centre (S-TIC) at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirappalli. The centre will work with ISRO on the technical problems at hand related to the future Space programmes and shall provide solutions.
   - This S-TIC will cater to the southern region of India, including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Telangana, the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry.
   
   Related Keys
   - ISRO Founded: 15 August 1969
   - ISRO Director: Kailasavadivoo Sivan

December 10
1. Name of the Three youngsters to launch self-made satellite from Sriharikota on 11 December?
   
   Answer: Alon Abramovich, Meitav Assulin and Shmuel Aviv Levi
   
   Explanation:
   - Israeli students to launch self-made satellite from Sriharikota on 11 December. Three youngsters, Alon Abramovich, Meitav Assulin and Shmuel Aviv Levi, from an Israeli school, will travel to India to launch a satellite, Duchifat 3. The three 17 to 18 years old are the students of Sha’ar HaNegev High school in Israel’s southern region. The satellite was designed and built by the students aboard PSLV C48 from ISRO’s Sriharikota launch1 site. The satellite is to be launched on 11 December.
   
   Related Keys:
   - Duchifat 3 is the third satellite made by the Israeli student.
   - The satellite was jointly built by Herzliya Science Center and Sha’arHanegev High School students.
   - The satellite was designed to serve children from across the country to observe the Earth.
   - It is an imaging satellite that will be used for ecological research of Earth from space.
   - The size of the satellite is 10x10x30 cm and weighs 2.3 kg.
   - The satellite will provide good help to agriculturists.

December 15
1. Which Organization has finally selected a sample collection site on asteroid Bennu after the arrival of OSIRIS-REx spacecraft in December 2018?
   
   Answer: NASA
   
   Explanation:
   - NASA has finally selected a sample collection site on asteroid Bennu after the arrival of OSIRIS-REx spacecraft in December 2018.
The OSIRIS-Rex mission team has selected the site designated Nightingale, which is located in a crater high in Bennu's northern hemisphere. The team has also selected site Osprey of Bennu as a backup sample collection site.

**Related Keys:**
- Site Nightingale is located in a northern crater **460 feet wide of the asteroid**. As per the observation, Nightingale's regolith or rocky surface material is dark, and images show that the crater is relatively smooth.

**December 18**

1. Which Organization signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France on 17 December 2019?

**Answer:** CSIR

**Explanation:**
- **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France on 17 December 2019.
- The aim of the MoU is to establish a framework for cooperation between **India and France** towards promotion and support of scientific and technological research.

**Related Keys**
- **CSIR and CNRS** plan to strengthen their cooperation to foster joint innovation and transfer of technologies applicable to India on and France and to other nations.
- The cooperation includes promoting technology transfer, sharing good practices, and enhancing industry-academia cooperation.

**December 19**

1. Which Organization has accepted to name a white-yellow star in Sextans constellation and its Jupiter-like exo planets?

**Answer:** IAU

**Explanation:**
- The **International Astronomical Union (IAU)** has accepted to name a white-yellow star in **Sextans constellation** and its **Jupiter-like exoplanets**.
- Until now, the stars were called HD 86081 and 86081b.

**Related Keys**
- **IAU**
- Formed on: 28 July 1919
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Membership: 82 national members and 13,701 individual members
- President: **Ewine van Dishoeck**
- General Secretary: Maria Teresa Lago

**December 20**

1. Which Organization has now approved a bio similar medicine that is derived from living sources instead of the chemicals?

**Answer:** WHO
Explaination:
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has now approved a bio similar medicine that is derived from living sources instead of the chemicals.
- The aim is to make breast cancer treatment affordable to women globally.
Related Keys
- WHO
- Founded: 7 April 1948
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Subsidiary: Pan American Health Organization

December 21
1. Which country had successfully test-fired two missiles from Chandipur in Odisha?
   Answer: India
   Explanation:
   - India had successfully test-fired two missiles from Chandipur in Odisha. The upgraded version of Pinaka guided rocket system was test-fired from the DRDO’s Proof and Experimental Establishment firing test range. Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QR-SAM) tested from a mobile launcher at a launch complex of the Integrated Test Range.
   Related Keys
   - DRDO Headquarters location: New Delhi
   - DRDO Founded: 1958

December 29
1. Which country has successfully launched its largest carrier rocket, Long March-5, carrying the Shijian-20 satellite, from Wenchang Space Launch Center?
   Answer: China
   Explanation:
   - China has successfully launched its largest carrier rocket, Long March-5, carrying the Shijian-20 satellite, from Wenchang Space Launch Center (WSLC) in south China’s Hainan Province. China’s most powerful rocket is a critical ingredient in nation’s ambitious space programme.
   Related Keys
   - China Capital: Beijing
   - China President: Xi Jinping

SPORTS

December 2
1. Who opened the South Asian Games in Kathmandu?
   Answer: Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari
   Explanation:
   - On December 1, 2019, the President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari opened the South Asian Games in Kathmandu. The event is scheduled to be conducted for 10 days. Around 487 athletes are participating from India.
Related News
- It is being conducted since 1983.
- Currently there are eight members in the event which includes India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Maldives.
- The Council was formed in 1983 at Islamabad, Pakistan.

December 5
1. Which Cricket team was awarded the Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket award for the year 2019?
   Answer: National cricket team of New Zealand
   Explanation:
   - The national cricket team of New Zealand was awarded the Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket award for the year 2019. New Zealand’s team captain Kane Williamson was presented with the award during the drawn second Test between his team and England.
   - Related Keys
     - The award was created in 2013, in memory of Martin-Jenkins.

December 6
1. Who regained the top spot in the International Cricket Council’s (ICC) Test rankings in batting?
   Answer: Virat Kohli
   Explanation:
   - India captain Virat Kohli regained the top spot in the International Cricket Council’s (ICC) Test rankings in batting.
   - Australian Steve Smith slipped from his 1 spot in the latest list issued in Dubai. Kohli, who had struck a fine 136 in the day-night Kolkata Test against Bangladesh last week, reached 928 points.
   Related Keys:
   - International Cricket Council’s (ICC) - Formation - 15 June 1909
   - International Cricket Council’s (ICC) - Headquarters – Dubai

December 10
1. Which agency bans Russia from all major sporting events?
   Answer: WADA
   Explanation:
   - WADA bans Russia from all major sporting events. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) banned Russia for a four-year term from all major sporting events. The decision was made at Wada’s executive committee in a meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland. Under the ban, the Russian national flag and anthem will not be allowed at events such as the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics and football’s 2022 World Cup in Qatar.
   - Related keys:
     - World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)
     - Formed on: 10 November 1999
     - President: Sir Craig Reedie
December 22
1. Who emerged as the new national champion in the women's 10m Air Rifle event at the ongoing 63rd National Shooting?
   Answer: Apurvi Chandela
   Explanation:
   - Himachal Pradesh Zeena Khitta West Bengal's Mehuli Ghosh world no.3
   - Apurvi Chandela emerged as the new national champion in the women's 10m Air Rifle event at the ongoing 63rd National Shooting Championship Competitions Rifle/Pistol Mehuli to settle for the silver while Apurvi won the bronze.

December 10
1. Who became the first Pakistan cricketer to score centuries in his first two Test matches?
   Answer: Abid Ali
   Explanation:
   - Abid Ali became the first Pakistan cricketer to score centuries in his first two Test matches. The feat against Sri Lanka in the ongoing second Test of the two-match Test series at the National Stadium in Karachi. Ali is currently at the crease unbeaten on 147.
   - The opener made 109 in the first Test against Sri Lanka and as a result, become the first-ever batsman in the history of the sport to score a century in his ODI and Test debut.

   Related Keys:
   - William Ponsford, Doug Walters, Greg Blewett (Australia), Sourav Ganguly, Rohit Sharma (India), Alvin Kallicharran (West Indies), Jimmy Neesham (New Zealand) score centuries in their first two Tests.

December 23
1. Who won the women’s gold medal at 6th Qatar International Cup being held in Doha?
   Answer: Saikhom Mirabai Chanu
   Explanation:
   - Saikhom Mirabai Chanu (24), the Former world champion weightlifter won the women’s 49kg category gold medal to open India’s account at 6th Qatar International Cup being held in Doha.
   - Chanu lifted 83kg in snatch and 111kg in clean and jerk to finish on top of podium.

   Related Keys
   - Chanu who is also a 2018 Commonwealth Games (CWG) gold-medallist.
   - The 24-year-old form Manipur, bagged gold with an effort of 194kg in Olympic qualifying event.
December 24
1. Which Association signed an agreement with the Confederation of African Football (CAF) stipulating?
   Answer: Qatar Football Association
   Explanation:
   - Qatar Football Association signed an agreement with the Confederation of African Football (CAF) stipulating that Doha will host the African Super Cup for the next three years. The African Super Cup in Doha with the next edition will be held on February 14, 2020.
   - At the beginning of this year, Qatar hosted the African Super Cup for the first time.
   Related Keys
   - Qatar Football Association Founded: 1960
   - Qatar Football Association President: Hamad Bin Khalifa Bin Ahmed Al-Thani

December 26
1. Who has been named the captain of Cricket Australia's ODI team of the decade?
   Answer: MS Dhoni
   Explanation:
   - MS Dhoni has been named the captain of Cricket Australia's ODI team of the decade. Cricket Australia (CA) announced its teams of the decade for ODI and test cricket on Tuesday, which features some of the best players in the sport right now.
   - Apart from Dhoni, two other Indian cricketers—Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma—have made it to the teams.

December 27
1. Who has been named in the Cricketers of the decade list alongside four others by the Wisden Cricketers'?
   Answer: Virat Kohli
   Explanation:
   - Indian skipper Virat Kohli has been named in the Cricketers of the decade list alongside four others by the Wisden Cricketers'.
   - Kohli, who has scored 5,775 more international runs than anyone else in the last 10 years, has arguably been the best batsman over the last decade.

December 30
1. Who is the India’s best-ever women’s chess player?
   Answer: Koneru Humpy
   Explanation:
   - Indian Grandmaster Koneru Humpy claimed the 2019 Women’s World Rapid Chess Champion title. The winner of Women’s World Rapid Championship
was decided in a playoff that ended with Humpy beating China’s Lei Tingjie in a
dramatic final in Moscow, Russia.

Related Keys
- **Konur Humpy** is the India’s best-ever women’s chess player
- In October 2007, she became the second female player, after Judit Polgár, to
  exceed the 2600 Elo rating mark, being rated 2606

**ECONOMY**

December 3
1. Which tax collections crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark after a gap of three months in
   November, growing by 6 per cent to Rs 1.03 lakh crore aided by festival demand?
   **Answer:** GST
   **Explanation:**
   - GST collections crossed the **Rs 1 lakh crore mark after a gap of three months in November**, growing by **6 per cent** to **Rs 1.03 lakh crore** aided by festival demand.
   - After two months of negative growth, GST revenues witnessed an impressive
     recovery with a positive growth of **6 per cent** in November 2019 over November 2018 collections.
   **Related News**
   - GST came into effect from July 1, 2017.
   - GST is meant to replace a slew of indirect taxes with a federated tax and is
     therefore expected to reshape the country's 2.4 trillion dollar economy.

December 31
1. Which country will overtake Germany to become fourth-largest economy in the
   world by the year 2026?
   **Answer:** India
   **Explanation:**
   - India will overtake Germany to become fourth-largest economy in the world by
     the year 2026. According to a report by the UK-based Centre for Economics and
     Business Research (CEBR), India is all set to overtake Japan to become the third-
     largest economy by 2034.
   - The report titled ‘World Economic League Table 2020’ said that India is also set to
     become a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2026, 2 years later than the government’s
     target of 2024.
   **Related News**
   - Germany Capital: Berlin
   - Germany Currency: Euro

**AWARDS**
December 2
1. Which Department has announced institution of first ever National Startup Awards?
   Answer: Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
   Explanation:
   o The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced institution of first ever National Startup Awards.
   o The award was launched by Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry and Railways. The applications for the awards are open till 31 December 2019.
   Related Keys
   o A cash prize of Rs. 5 lakhs each will be awarded to winning startup in each area. Moreover, a cash prize of Rs. 15 lakhs each will be awarded to 1 winning Incubator and 1 winning Accelerator as well.

December 8
1. Who won the Siu-Ka-Pha Award??
   Answer: Dr. Padmeswar Gogoi.
   Explanation:
   o The Siu-Ka-Pha Award was presented to noted educationist, Botanist and folklore researcher Dr. Padmeswar Gogoi.
   o It was presented at a programme held at Siu Ka-PhaSamannay Kshetra in Golaghat. The award recognized his effort and contribution in the field of botany and science.
   Related Keys:
   o Siu-Ka-Pha Award was instituted by the central committee of different ethnic groups and organizations of Golaghat district, Assam.

December 19
1. Which state has been selected by the Union Ministry of Rural Development for the national award in the best performing category for implementing the PMGSY?
   Answer: Jammu and Kashmir
   Explanation:
   o Jammu and Kashmir has been selected by the Union Ministry of Rural Development for the national award in the best performing category for implementing the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).
   o The award will be presented in a ceremony on 19 December 2019 at the National Agricultural Science Complex, Pusa, New Delhi.
   Related Keys
   o PMGSY
   o The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched on 25 December 2000 by the Government of India.
   o The scheme aims to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations as part of a poverty reduction strategy.
2. Which Akademi has announced the winners of the 2019 Sahitya Akademi Awards in 23 languages on 18 December?
   **Answer:** Sahitya Akademi
   **Explanation:**
   - Sahitya Akademi has announced the winners of the 2019 Sahitya Akademi Awards in 23 languages on 18 December. Four of novels, seven books of poetry, six of short stories, three of essays and one each of non-fiction, biography, and autobiography won the award.
   - **Related Keys**
     - The awards were recommended by distinguished Jury members who represent 23 Indian languages.
     - The finalists were approved by the Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi under the Chairmanship of Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi.

   **December 21**
   1. Who has announced that, Portugal will be launching a Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize, each year inspired by his different thoughts and quotes?
      **Answer:** Antonio Costa
      **Explanation:**
      - Portuguese Prime Minister, Antonio Costa has announced that, Portugal will be launching a Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize, each year inspired by his different thoughts and quotes.
      - The first edition of this prize will be dedicated to animal welfare as Mahatma Gandhi said that the greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated.
      - **Related Keys**
        - The President of India said that the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi can show the right path on issues like stress and conflict and climate crisis.
        - In 1974, India and Portugal started their diplomatic relations with a new government in Portugal.

   **December 28**
   1. Who conferred Life Achievement honour by American Academy of Ophthalmology?
      **Answer:** Dr. Santosh G Honavar
      **Explanation:**
      - Hyderabad Ophthalmologist Dr. Santosh G Honavar conferred Life Achievement honour by American Academy of Ophthalmology. He is the first Indian chosen for the honour. The award was formally presented to Dr. Honavar recently at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology held in San Francisco.

   **APPOINTMENTS**

   **December 9**

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1. Who was appointed chairman of the National Stock Exchange (NSE)?
   Answer: Girish Chandra Chaturvedi
   Explanation:
   - **Girish Chandra Chaturvedi**, the former petroleum secretary, was appointed chairman of the National Stock Exchange (NSE). The appointment comes within weeks of him joining the NSE board as a public interest director.
   - The chairman's post was vacant since January, following Ashok Chawla's resignation amid CBI-related developments in the Aircel-Maxis case. Girish also serves as non-executive chairman of ICICI Bank.
   Related Keys:
   - National Stock Exchange Founded: 1992
   - National Stock Exchange Location: **Mumbai, India**

**December 15**

1. Who is the first lieutenant governor of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir?
   Answer: Girish Chandra Murmu
   Explanation:
   - The government appointed TV Somanathan as an expenditure secretary in the finance ministry. Somanathan will replace Girish Chandra Murmu, who was named the first lieutenant governor of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in October.
   Related Keys:
   - TV Somanathan is a 1987 batch IAS officer from the Tamil Nadu cadre. Somanathan served as a commercial tax commissioner and principal secretary, Planning & Development, in the Tamil Nadu government.

**December 17**

1. Who has resigned from the Chief Commercial Officer post on 16 December 2019?
   Answer: Sanjiv Kapoor
   Explanation:
   - Sanjiv Kapoor stepped down as the Chief Commercial Officer of Vistara
   - **Vistara's Chief Commercial Officer** (CCO) Sanjiv Kapoor has resigned from the post on 16 December 2019. He will be working with the airline till 31 December 2019. Kapoor had resigned due to personal reasons. VinodKannan, Vistara's Chief Strategy Officer will replace as the CCO.
   Related Keys:
   - Vistara Founded on: 2013
   - Vistara Headquarters: Gurgaon
   - Vistara Chairman: **BhaskarBhat**
   - Vistara CEO: Leslie Ting

**December 18**

1. Who was appointed as the chairman-cum-managing director of the National Aluminium Company (NALCO)?
   Answer: Sridhar Patra
   Explanation:

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• Sridhar Patra was appointed as the chairman-cum-managing director of the National Aluminium Company (NALCO).
• Patra is currently serving as the Director (Finance) in the National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). He will be serving as the CMD of NALCO till the date of his superannuation, i.e. 31 October 2024.

Related Keys
• NALCO was incorporated in 1981.
• It is a Navratna group A CPSE that functions under the Ministry of Mines.
• Indian Government holds 52% equity of NALCO.
• It is headquartered at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

December 22
1. Who appointed as the 27th Chief Justice of Pakistan?
Answer: Gulzar Ahmed
Explanation:
• Justice Gulzar Ahmed appointed as the 27th Chief Justice of Pakistan. He takes over from Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khosa, whose tenure came to an end after serving the country's top judge from January this year.
• The new Chief Justice will remain in office till February 21, 2022.

Related Keys:
• Justice Gulzar Ahmed became an advocate of the High Court in 1988
• Justice Ahmed was elected as honorary secretary of the Sindh High Court Bar Association, Karachi, for the year 1999-2000.

December 23
1. Who has been appointed as the first woman Chief Technology Officer at the US government's powerful FCC?
Answer: Dr. Monisha Ghosh
Explanation:
• Indian-American Dr. Monisha Ghosh has been appointed as the first woman Chief Technology Officer at the US government's powerful FCC (Federal Communications Commission).
• She will advise Indian-American Chairman of the FCC Ajit Pai and the agency on technology and engineering issues. Dr. Ghosh will take charge on January 13.

Related Keys
• Federal Communications Commission Founder: Franklin D. Roosevelt.
• Federal Communications Commission Founded: 19 June 1934

BANKING NEWS

December 5
1. Which Bank will release its fifth bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2019-20?
Answer: RBI
Explanation:
The Reserve Bank of India, RBI, will release its fifth bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2019-20, today. The six-member Monetary Policy Committee, MPC, of the RBI, led by Governor Shaktikanta Das, will announce the credit policy for the current fiscal, a resolution passed by the ongoing three-day MPC meet in Mumbai.

The RBI has cut interest rates on every single occasion the MPC met since Shaktikanta Das took over as the Governor in last December.

Related News

The Reserve Bank of India was established following the Reserve Bank of India Act of 1934. Though RBI privately owned initially, it was nationalised in 1949 and since then fully owned by Government of India (GoI).

December 11

1. Which Bank has announced the reduction in its marginal cost of fund based lending rate (MCLR) by 10 basis points across all one-year products?
   Answer: State Bank of India
   Explanation:
   - Country's largest lender State Bank of India has announced the reduction in its marginal cost of fund based lending rate (MCLR) by 10 basis points across all one-year products. It will be effective from today.
   - This is the eighth consecutive cut in MCLR by the lender this fiscal. The new one-year MCLR has been cut to 7.90 per cent from 8 per cent.

   Related Keys:
   - State Bank of India Chairperson: Rajnish Kumar
   - State Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai

December 17

1. In which place the fifth meeting of the Economic Advisory Council of the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC) was held?
   Answer: New Delhi
   Explanation:
   - The fifth meeting of the Economic Advisory Council of the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC) was held in New Delhi on 16 December 2019.
   - The meeting included discussions related to GST stabilization and the ways to improve tax collection for additional resource mobilization.

   Related Keys:
   - Advisory Council has been informed to submit the 2020-21 report.
   - The Commission is preparing the report for the 2021-26 period.
   - Advisory Council Members were updated by the Commission regarding the additional terms of reference extending the term of XVFC till October 2020.
   - It also plans to make recommendations on Goods and Services Tax (GST). It will be under consideration by the GST Council.

2. Which Bank has signed a loan agreement with KfW, the German development bank, worth $277 million?
   Answer:SBI
Explaination:
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has signed a loan agreement with KfW, the German development bank, worth **$277 million** on 16 December 2019.
- The arrangement of the loan and the grant facilities was facilitated by SBI’s investment banking subsidiary SBI Capital Markets Ltd.

**Related Keys:**
- The aim of the agreement was to establish an energy-efficient housing programme in India.
- The facility was signed after an agreement on financial cooperation between the two governments in October 2019.
- The programme will be a part of Indo-German Development Cooperation which is guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**December 20**

1. In which Company has issued the first Bharat Bond ETF, the corporate bond exchange-traded fund in the country?
   **Answer:** Edelweiss Asset Management Company
   **Explanation:**
   - **Edelweiss Asset Management Company** has issued the first **Bharat Bond ETF**, the corporate bond exchange-traded fund in the country.
   - The bond issue will close on 20 December 2019.
   **Related Keys**
   - Bharat Bond ETF
   - The investors can subscribe to the exchange-traded fund (ETF) with a minimum unit size of Rs.1,000.
   - Through the ETF, Edelweiss Mutual Fund proposed to raise an initial amount of Rs.3,000 crore.

2. How much amount of loan signed by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India to Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)?
   **Answer:** $250 million loan
   **Explanation:**
   - The **Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India** signed a **$250 million loan** to **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**.
   - The agreement aims to expand energy efficiency investments in India.
   **Related Keys**
   - The agreement is expected to benefit residential, agricultural, and institutional consumers.
   - The Clean Technology Fund (CTF) will provide $46 million in financing. It will be administered by ADB.

3. Which Bank has instructed banks to make all online payments done through National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)?
   **Answer:** RBI
   **Explanation:**
   - The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has instructed banks to make all online
payments done through National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Real-time gross settlement (RTGS) free of cost for savings account holders.

- It will come to effect from 1 January 2020.

**Related Key**
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Bank rate: 5.40%
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founder: British Raj

**December 31**

1. Who has said that no Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) will be applicable on transactions through homegrown RuPay and UPI platforms beginning 1st of January next year?

   **Answer:** Nirmala Sitharaman

   **Explanation:**
   - Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that no Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) will be applicable on transactions through homegrown RuPay and UPI platforms beginning 1st of January next year. Ms. Sitharaman announced this in New Delhi after meeting Chiefs of Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Chief executive of Indian Banks’ Association and representatives of leading private sector banks to discuss banking issues.

   **Related News**
   - The merchant discount rate is the rate charged to a merchant for payment processing services on debit and credit card transactions.
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