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JANUARY - 2020

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INDEX

04 - 39	National News
39 - 50	International News
50 - 52	Important Days
52 - 56	Science & Technology
56 - 60	Sports News
60 - 61	Economic
61 - 64	Awards
64- 66	Appointments
66-69	Banking News



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NATIONAL NEWS

January 1

1. Which country has improved its composite score from 57 in 2018 to 60 in the Sustainable Development Goals Index 2019-20?

Answer: India

Explanation:

- **India** has improved its composite score from **57 in 2018 to 60** in the **Sustainable Development Goals Index 2019-20**.
- This has been achieved due to better works in water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy and industry, innovation, and infrastructure. **Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana** have topped the list of states on the SDGs Index-2019-20.

Related Keys

- The Index tracks the progress of all the States and Union Territories (UTs) on a set of 62 National Indicators, measuring their progress on the outcomes.

2. Which Government launched “Central Equipment Identify Register” portal to block and trace mobile phones?

Answer: Government of India

Explanation:

- The **Government of India** on December 30, 2019, launched “**Central Equipment Identify Register**” portal to block and trace mobile phones. The web portal will operate under Department of Telecom.
- The CEIR portal has been established in order to address theft, security and other concerns. The portal will also hold database of IMEI numbers of blacklisted handsets.

Related Keys

- CEIR has powers to block the usage of the phone. On the other hand, the predecessor technologies of CEIR were able to block the sim cards alone.

3. Who was appointed as the Chief of Defence Staff?

Answer: Bipin Rawat

Explanation:

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- On December 31, 2019, General **Bipin Rawat** was appointed as the **Chief of Defence Staff**. He recently retired as Chief of Army Staff and was succeeded by General **Manoj Mukund**.
- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the post of Chief of Defence Staff in the rank of four star general. The salaries and perks of the CDS is equivalent to service chief.

Related Keys

- The other countries that hold Chief of Defence Staff in the world includes Italy, France, China, Spain, UK, Canada and Japan.
- The Chief of Staff Committee was created to finalize the powers of CDS.

January 2

1. Which Ministry has accorded Organized Group 'A' status to Railway Protection Force (RPF)?

Answer: Ministry of Railway

Explanation:

- The **Ministry of Railway** has accorded Organized **Group 'A' status** to **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** and renamed it Indian Railway Protection Force Service.
- "Consequent upon grant of Organized Group 'A' status (OGAS) to RPF in the light of cabinet decision arising from Hon'ble Court's orders, it is hereby informed that RPF will be known as Indian Railway Protection Force Service,"

Related Keys

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

2. Which Commission launched an online system that will allow political parties to track their applications?

Answer: Election Commission of India

Explanation:

- On January 1, 2020, the **Election Commission of India** launched an online system that will allow political parties to track their applications. The system is called **Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System** (PPRTMS).

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- The system will track applications registered by political parties. The status of the application shall be obtained through SMS or e-mail.

Related Keys

- Election Commission of India Formed: 25 January 1950.
- Election Commission of India Headquarters: **New Delhi.**

3. Which Government announced the renaming of PragatiMaidan metro station as the Supreme Court metro station?

Answer: Government of Delhi

Explanation:

- The **Government of Delhi** on 31st Dec '19', announced the renaming of **PragatiMaidan metro station** as the **Supreme Court metro station.**
- Addressing a press conference, Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia said the Delhi government's naming committee has decided to rename the Pragati Maidan metro station as Supreme Court metro station.

Related Keys

- Delhi Chief minister: **ArvindKejriwal.**
- Delhi Literacy (2011) 86.21%.

January 3

1. Which country first time ranks among the top ten in the Climate Change Performance Index?

Answer: India

Explanation:

- **India** for the first time ranks among the **top ten in the Climate Change Performance Index**, CCPI, which goes further to prove that all efforts and activities being currently undertaken by the government are setting a tone of vast improvements.
- Government aims to increase the share of non-fossil fuels to 175 Giga Watt by 2022 and further take it to **450 GW.**

Related Keys

- Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is an instrument designed by the German environmental and development organization **Germanwatche.V.** to enhance transparency in international climate politics.

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2. Who will inaugurate the conference to be attended by over 15,000 delegates?

Answer: Narendra Modi

Explanation:

- The **University of Agricultural Sciences in Bengaluru** is all set to host the 107th **Indian Science Congress** from 3rd till 7th of this month. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the conference to be attended by over 15,000 delegates .
- The General President of the Indian Science Congress Association, Prof. **K S Rangappa** has informed that 1500 scientific papers and 5700 posters will be laid in 14 scientific disciplines.

Related Keys

- University of Agricultural Sciences in Bengaluru Established – 1964
- University of Agricultural Sciences in Bengaluru Vice-Chancellor Dr. S. Rajendra Prasad

January 4

1. Which Organization designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife to honor the 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale?

Answer: World Health Organization

Explanation:

- **World Health Organization** designated 2020 as the Year of the **Nurse and the Midwife** to honor the **200th birth anniversary** of **Florence Nightingale** an English Social reformer born in 1820.
- It aims to improve health globally by raising the status and profile of nursing and enabling nurses to maximize their contribution to achieve Universal Health Coverage. **WHO** (World Health Organization) is to launch the reports prior to 73rd session of WHO which is to be held in Geneva between Feb 3-8.

Related Keys

- World Health Organization Founded: 7 April 1948
- World Health Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

2. Which Government has launched a 'Cyber Safe Women' initiative under which awareness camps will be held across all the districts of the state regarding cyber

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safety?

Answer: Maharashtra Government

Explanation:

- **Maharashtra Government** has launched a '**Cyber Safe Women**' initiative under which awareness camps will be held across all the districts of the state regarding cyber safety.
- Chief Minister **Uddhav Thackeray** has said the initiative will help in educating women about how the web is used by anti-social elements and child predators to commit various types of crimes.

Related Keys

- Maharashtra Governor: **Bhagat Singh Koshyari**
- Maharashtra Formation: 1 May 1960

January 5

1. Which ministry declared the setting up of new emerging and strategic technologies (NEST) division?

Answer: External affairs ministry

Explanation:

- **External affairs ministry** declared the setting up of **new emerging and strategic technologies (NEST) division**.
- The division will work to increase investment coordination among the states of the country and also with the foreign countries.

Related Keys:

- **NEST** act as the nodal division within the ministry for issues about new and emerging technologies.
- It will help in collaboration with foreign partners in the field of 5G and artificial intelligence.

2. Which action will help in educating women about how the web is used by anti-social elements?

Answer: Cyber Safe Women initiative

Explanation:

- Maharashtra Government launched a **Cyber Safe Women initiative** under which awareness camps across all the districts of the state regarding cyber safety.

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- The action will help in educating women about how the web is used by **anti-social elements and child predators to commit** various types of crimes.

Related Keys:

- Maharashtra Chief Minister: Uddhav Thackeray
- Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari

January 6

1. Which country has moved six places up to reach the 34th rank in the world Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index?

Answer: India

Explanation:

- **India** has moved **six places** up to reach the **34th rank** in the world **Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index**. This index considers many elements of tourism including cultural resources, rich natural resource, price competitiveness and others.
- India has moved up from **40th rank to 34th ranks** and is now a part of the top 25% of the countries in the list.

Related Keys

- The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report was first published in 2007 by the World Economic Forum.
- The 2007 report covered 124 major and emerging economies.

2. Which Army will sign MoU with Russia to procure AK-203 assault rifles?

Answer: Indian Army

Explanation:

- The **Indian Army** will sign **MoU with Russia** to procure **AK-203 assault rifles**. According to the deal, around 1 lakh rifles are to be received directly from Russia and the rest will be manufactured in India.
- The rifles will be manufactured at **Korwa** in **Uttar Pradesh** by a joint Venture (JV) called Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL). Of the JV, 50.5% is to be owned by India and 49.5% by Russia.

Related Keys

- The Indian Army Founded: 1 April 1895.
- The Indian Army Headquarters: **New Delhi**.

3. Which symposium is conducted by the Marine Biological association of India?

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Answer: Third international symposium

Explanation:

- The **Marine Ecosystems-Challenges and Opportunities (MECOS)**, the **third international symposium** is to be held in **Kochi**. The symposium is conducted by the Marine Biological association of India between January 7, 2020 and January 10, 2020.
- The symposium is to focus on the Sustainable Development Goal of the United Nations, **SDG-14**. **SDG-14** says, "Conserve and Sustainably use the oceans and its resources for sustainable development".

Related Keys

- Previous MECOS2 brought together marine scientists, researchers and teachers from all over the world.

January 7

1. Which government has decided to start MP Mukhya mantri Karamchari Swasthya BimaYojana 2020?

Answer: Madhya Pradesh govt.

Explanation:

- **Madhya Pradesh govt.** has decided to start MP **Mukhyamantri Karamchari Swasthya Bima Yojana** 2020. Around 12 lakh 55 thousand staff personnel and functionaries would be benefited from MP Chief Minister Employees Health Insurance Scheme.
- This decision is taken in the state cabinet meeting held on 4 January 2020 led by CM Kamal Nath.

Related Keys

- Madhya Pradesh Capital: Bhopal
- Madhya Pradesh Chief minister: Kamal Nath

2. Which Program (SLNP) of the central government completed five successful years of illuminating the country today?

Answer: UJALA and Street Lighting National Program

Explanation:

- **UJALA and Street Lighting National Program**(SLNP) of the central government completed **five successful years of illuminating** the country

today. Over 36.13 crore LED bulbs have been distributed across the country through the UJALA initiative.

- This has resulted in estimated energy savings of 46.92 billion kilowatt-hour per year.

Related Keys

- UJALA Launched: 1 May 2015; 4 years ago
- UJALA developed to address India's high cost of electrification and high emissions from inefficient lighting.

3. In which place fifth Asia Pacific Drosophila Research Conference was held?

Answer: Pune

Explanation:

- On January 6, 2020, the fifth **Asia Pacific Drosophila Research Conference** was held at **Pune**. It was organized by the **Indian Institute of Science Education and Research**. The conference is held twice a year.
- The conference is to be held between January 6, 2020 and January 10, 2020. It aims at promoting interaction between the **Drosophila researchers** in the region of Asia-Pacific.

Related Keys

- Fourth Asia Pacific Drosophila Research Conference took place May 8-11, 2017, at the Osaka University Suita Campus Convention Center in Osaka, Japan.

4. In which place two Oman ships arrived to participate in "Naseem-Al-Bahr", the Indo-Oman bilateral naval exercise?

Answer: Goa

Explanation:

- On January 6, 2020, two Oman ships arrived in **Goa** to participate in "**Naseem-Al-Bahr**", the Indo-Oman bilateral naval exercise. RNOV are Royal Navy of Oman Vessels. **RNOV al Rasikh and RNOV Khassab** arrived at Goa. Along with these ships, Indian Naval Ships Shubhadra and Beas will also participate in the exercise.

Related Keys

- The Indo-Oman Naval Exercises are being conducted since 1993.

- The countries conduct regular biennial exercises between all three services namely army, navy and air force.
- Oman Currency: Omani rial

January 8

1. Which organization announced that all medical devices will be brought under one regulatory regime?

Answer: NITI Aayog

Explanation:

- The Government Think Tank **NITI Aayog** draws up list of medical devices that have high export potential. It has come up with 10 devices to provide priority subsidies. It includes surgical blades, orthopaedic implants, catheters, syringes and needles, X-ray machines, blood bags, MRI machines and CT scan.

Related Keys

- In December 2018, **NITI Aayog** announced that all medical devices will be brought under one **regulatory regime**.
- Currently, the medical devices are governed under the Central Drugs Standard Control organization (CDSCO).

2. Which Mission rolled out at block level in 35 districts of Uttar Pradesh?

Answer: Mission Indradhanush 2.0

Explanation:

- The second phase of **Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0** rolled out at block level in 35 districts of **Uttar Pradesh**. The aim of the program launched by central government in 2017 is to achieve 90 percent vaccination coverage in children of less than 2 years in state.
- AIR correspondent reports that under the program the immunization activity will be in four rounds over seven working days excluding the Regular immunisation days, Sundays and holidays.

Related Keys

- Mission Indradhanush Launch year: 2014
- The scheme seeks to drive towards 90% full immunization coverage of India and sustain the same by year 2020.

3. Which state is all set to become the first state in the country to start the exercise of

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shortlisting migrants from Pakistan?

Answer: Uttar Pradesh

Explanation:

- **Uttar Pradesh** is all set to become the first state in the country to start the exercise of shortlisting migrants from **Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan**, eligible for citizenship under the new Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).
- The exercise will also identify those who are living illegally in the state.

Related Keys

- Uttar Pradesh Capital: Lucknow
- Uttar Pradesh Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath

January 9

1. Which Institute (CMFRI) announced that it has developed viable scientific method to cultivate Indian Pompano fish in ponds?

Answer: Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute

Explanation:

- On January 8, 2020, the **Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute** (CMFRI) announced that it has developed viable scientific method to cultivate **Indian Pompano fish** in ponds. Pompanos are marine fishes. Cultivating Indian Pompano in ponds will be a good alternative to shrimp.
- The financial assistance for the scientific invention was provided by the **National Fisheries Development Board** (NFDB).

Related Keys

- Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute Founded: 1947
- Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute Director Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan

2. Who laid foundation stone to Lakshadweep's first Super Specialty Hospital at Kavaratti?

Answer: Ram Nath Kovind

Explanation:

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** laid foundation stone to **Lakshadweep's first Super Specialty Hospital at Kavaratti**. President who is on two days visit to the union territory assured special focus for the development of

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Lakshadweep and directed Lakshadweep Administrator to give special attention for the completion of Super Specialty Hospital.

Related Keys

- Lakshadweep Capital: Kavaratti
- Lakshadweep Formation: 1 November 1956

3. Who announced that the State is to set up the Vikram Sarabhai Children Innovation Center (VSCIC) in the state?

Answer: Vijay Rupani

Explanation:

- Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** announced that the State is to set up the **Vikram Sarabhai Children Innovation Center (VSCIC)** in the state. The announcement was made at the Children's Innovation Festival (CIF) held at **Gandhinagar**.
- In the Festival he felicitated top 30 idea teams, out 114 teams, led by school students in the state. Also, a letter of intent was exchanged between Gujarat University and UNICEF on the occasion.

Related Keys

- Gujarat Capital: Gandhinagar
- Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat

January 10

1. Which Railways has enhanced security in major railway hubs by installing IP based video surveillance system?

Answer: Indian Railways

Explanation:

- The **Indian Railways** has enhanced security in major railway hubs by installing IP based video surveillance system. The surveillance has been installed in parking areas, entrance and exit platforms, waiting hall and over bridges.
- The surveillance system is to be installed in 983 stations at a budget of Rs 250 crores. The budget is being allocated from **Nirbhaya funds**.

Related Keys

- Indian Railways Founded- April 16, 1853
- Indian Railways Headquarters- New Delhi

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- Minister of Railway- PiyushGoyal
- Chairman of Railway Board- Vinod Kumar Yadav

2. Who inaugurated the Advantage Maharashtra expo 2020 in Aurangabad?

Answer: Uddhav Thackeray

Explanation:

- Maharashtra Chief Minister **Uddhav Thackeray** inaugurated the **Advantage Maharashtra expo 2020** in Aurangabad. The four-day mega industrial exhibition has been organized by the Marathwada Association of Small Scale Industries and Agriculture (**MASSIA**).
- Growth of Marathwada industries in technology and innovation and the products produced and exported from the region will be showcased in this exhibition.

Related Keys

- Governor - Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- Chief Minister - Uddhav Thackeray

January 11

1. Which organization approved a new greenfield alumina refinery unit?

Answer: Odisha's High-Level Clearance Authority

Explanation:

- **Odisha's High-Level Clearance Authority** (HLCA) approved a new greenfield alumina refinery unit. The project was proposed by **Aditya Birla Group-owned Hindalco Industries**. This will be Hindalco's second alumina refining complex in Odisha after the Utkal Alumina refining project, also in the Rayagada district.
- The estimated cost of the new facility is Rs.8,000crore.

Related Keys

- Founded on: 1958
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra India
- Chairman: Kumar Mangalam Birla
- Products: Aluminum and copper products

2. In which place Wings India 2020 has been scheduled to be held?

Answer: Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad

Explanation:

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- **Wings India 2020** has been scheduled to be held at **Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad** from 12-15 March 2020. The event is expected to boost aviation.
- The event is organized by **Ministry of Civil Aviation** (MOCA) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) to provide a congenial forum to the rapidly changing dynamics of the sector.

Related Keys

- Wings India 2020 is an international exhibition and conference on the civil aviation sector.
- The event focus on new business acquisition, investments, policy formation, and regional connectivity.

3. Which Corporation launched imported water-soluble fertilizers in Ahmedabad?

Answer: Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation

Explanation:

- **Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation** (GAIC) launched imported water-soluble fertilizers in **Ahmedabad**. The move aims to encourage the use of high-grade agri-inputs in the state.
- In this move, the role of GAIC will be to import, pack and sell the imported water-soluble fertilizers to the farmers through its network of dealers across the State.

Related Keys

- GAIC promotes agro-based industries in Gujarat.
- It imported 300 tonnes of water-soluble fertilizers from China.

January 12

1. Which Court has declared access to internet a fundamental right?

Answer: Supreme Court

Explanation:

- The **Supreme Court** has declared access to **internet a fundamental right**. A government cannot deprive the citizens of fundamental rights except under certain conditions explicitly mentioned in the Constitution.
- The ruling came on hearing of a plea in connection with Internet blockade in Jammu and Kashmir since August 5 -- in the view of revoking of Article 370 in the Union Territory.

Related Keys

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- Supreme Court Established - 1 October 1937
- Supreme Court Location - **TilakMarg, New Delhi, Delhi**

2. Who launched the country's first Cyber Crime Prevention Unit called the AASHVAST in Gandhinagar?

Answer: Amit Shah

Explanation:

- On January 11, 2020, Home Minister **Amit Shah** launched the country's first **Cyber Crime Prevention Unit called the AASHVAST** in **Gandhinagar**. Along with AASHVAST, the Video Integration and State Wide Advance Security project called VISWAS was also launched.
- The AASHVAST is a unit that will act to prevent cyber crimes with the help of VISWAS and NETRANG.

3. Which country recently attended the Hormuz Peace Initiative that was held in Tehran?

Answer: India

Explanation:

- **India** recently attended the **Hormuz Peace Initiative** that was held in **Tehran**. The initiative aimed at stabilizing one of world's busiest shipping lanes, the Strait of Hormuz amidst US-Iran tensions. It was attended by leading trade partners of Iran namely China, Oman, India and Afghanistan.
- The countries that attended the initiative reviewed the "**Hormuz Peace Endeavor**" (HOPE) that was proposed by Tehran

Related Keys

- Tehran is the capital of Iran and Tehran Province.
- Tehran It is ranked 24th in the world by the population of its metropolitan area.

4. In which place the fifth edition The Pulses Conclave, will be held?

Answer: Lonavala, Maharashtra.

Explanation:

- **India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA)**, the nodal body for the country's pulses trade and industry on announced that the **fifth edition The**

Pulses Conclave, will be held from February 12-14 in **Lonavala, Maharashtra**.

- IPGA expects close to 1500 trade stakeholders from India and key pulses exporting countries like USA, Australia, Canada, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi.

Related Keys

- Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari
- Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai

January 13

1. Which aircraft prototype of the naval version successfully completed the test trial?

Answer: light combat aircraft

Explanation:

- A prototype of the naval version of the **light combat aircraft**(LCA) successfully completed the test trial. It landed and took off from **India's aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya** on 11 January 2020.
- The test was a significant step towards India developing its own deck-based fighters. This will now pave the way to develop and manufacture the Twin Engine Deck Based Fighter for the Indian Navy.

Related Keys

- Indian Navy Founder: 5th September 1612
- motto of the Indian Navy is- '**ShanoVaruna**'

2. Who headed by newly-created department of military affairs?

Answer: Bipin Rawat

Explanation:

- Centre appointed **2 joint secretaries, 13 deputy secretaries, and 25 under secretary-rank officials** to the newly-created **department of military affairs**.
- The department is to be headed by Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General **BipinRawat**. The appointments are in line with the government's vision of ensuring tri-services synergy.

Related Keys:

- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is the professional service chief, head of the Indian Armed Forces and the senior-most uniformed military adviser to the Government of India.

January 14

1. In which place IIFPT was located?

Answer: Thanjavur

Explanation:

- The **Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT)**, **Bathinda** signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 8 different reputed institutes of the region in the states of **Punjab and Haryana**.
- The MoU was aimed to increase the income of small farmers. It also aims to open new opportunities for the benefit of farmers

Related Keys:

- IIFPT was organized in 1967
- IIFPT was located in **Thanjavur**

2. Which Program on Petroleum and Steel sectors for SC/ST Entrepreneurs was held on 13 January 2020?

Answer: Special National Vendor Development Program

Explanation:

- The **Special National Vendor Development Program (NVDP)** on **Petroleum and Steel** sectors for SC/ST Entrepreneurs was held on 13 January 2020.
- It was organized by the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICC). The measures taken by GoI for the SC/ST community including National Infrastructure Pipeline and Ujjwala connections were discussed.

3. Which district won the Plastic Waste Management Award 2020?

Answer: Dibrugarh

Explanation:

- Assam's **Dibrugarh** district won the **Plastic Waste Management Award 2020**. It was awarded for being the best district of India in the plastic waste management category during **Swachhta Hi Sewa 2019**.

- The award was received by **PallavGopalJha**, Deputy Commissioner from renowned Bollywood actor Amir Khan at a function held at Pride Plaza, Aerocity in **Delhi**.

Related Keys:

- Swachhta hi Seva 2019 is a nationwide awareness and mobilization campaign on Swachhta.
- It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Mathura on 11 September 2019.

4. Which company bagged a megaproject from NTPC for a 250-megawatt solar project under the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSU) scheme?

Answer: Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd

Explanation:

- **Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd** bagged a megaproject from NTPC for a **250-megawatt solar project** under the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSU) scheme.
- The cost of the project is **Rs.1,505crore**. It has been estimated to be completed in a period of 20 months.

Related Keys:

- The CPSU scheme aims to set up **12,000 MW** of solar capacity by government companies by the financial year 2022-23.
- The Cabinet already sanctioned a viability gap funding support of Rs.8,580crore towards the scheme capped at Rs.70 lakh per MW.

January 15

1. Who attending India's flagship global conference on geopolitics and geo-economics Raisina Dialogue?

Answer: Narendra Modi

Explanation:

- **India's flagship global conference on geopolitics and geo-economics Raisina Dialogue** began with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** attending the inaugural session in **New Delhi**. Seven former heads of state or government will share their views on important challenges facing the world.

- The fifth edition of the prestigious Raisina Dialogue, jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation, will bring together **700 international participants** from over a **100 countries**.

Related Keys

- The Raisina Dialogue is a multilateral conference held annually in New Delhi.
- The name "Raisina Dialogue" comes from Raisina Hill, an elevation in New Delhi.

2. Who has announced a scheme for voluntary registration of all drones and their operators?

Answer: Government

Explanation:

- **Government** has announced a scheme for **voluntary registration of all drones and their operators**. The registration can be done by the 31st of this month. The **Civil Aviation Ministry** said in a notice that those who fail to register will face action.
- A Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Co-Chair Committee on Drones last year had estimated that the number of illegal drones in India are likely to be between fifty to sixty thousand.

January 16

1. Who chaired the sixth meeting of the Island Development Agency (IDA)?

Answer: Amit Shah

Explanation:

- Union home minister **Amit Shah** chaired the sixth meeting of the **Island Development Agency (IDA)**. In the meeting chaired by Shah, the progress made under the **"Holistic development of islands"** program was reviewed
- For the first time in the country, an initiative of sustainable development in the identified Islands within scientifically-assessed carrying capacity has been taken-up.

Related Keys

- Island Development agency (IDA) was constituted in 2017 for the holistic development of islands.

- The IDA had identified 10 islands for development which include 5 islands in A&N Islands

January 17

1. Which agreement signed by Government of Assam, Government of India and World Bank?

Answer: USD agreement

Explanation:

- On January 16, 2020, the **Government of Assam, Government of India and World Bank** signed 88 million **USD agreement**. The agreement aims to modernize Assam's Ferry transport service on the **Brahmaputra river**.

Related Keys

- Around 15 waterways are operating in Assam.
- The IBP (India-Bangladesh Protocol), National Waterway-2 that was recently launched in November 2019.

2. Which category people can now cast their vote in Delhi Assembly Election through postal ballot?

Answer: PwDs and people over 80 years of age

Explanation:

- **People with disabilities (PwDs) and people over 80 years of age** can now cast their vote in **Delhi Assembly Election through postal ballot**. For the first time, Delhi Metro, Northern Railway Employees and media persons covering polling can also use postal ballot facility to cast their votes.
- Till now, voting through postal ballot was available to armed forces and those assigned in poll duties.

3. In which place the International Conclave on "Globalizing Indian Thought" was held?

Answer: IIM, Kozhikode

Explanation:

- On January 17, 2020, the International Conclave on **"Globalizing Indian Thought"** was held in **IIM, Kozhikode**. PM **Modi** addressed the conclave. The conclave aimed at revealing India's thoughts in becoming one of top three economies of the world.

- India is stepping towards the goal of becoming a 5 trillion Dollar economy by 2025.

Related Keys

- IIM, Kozhikode Director: Debashis Chatterjee
- IIM, Kozhikode set up in 1996

January 18

1. Which train between Ahmedabad and Mumbai Central has been flagged off by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani?

Answer: Tejas Express

Explanation:

- The state of art- new **Tejas Express** train between **Ahmedabad and Mumbai** Central has been flagged off by Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** at Ahmedabad Railway Station.
- On the inaugural run, the Train No. 09426 which left Ahmedabad at 09.30 A.M. reached Mumbai at 04.00 P.M.

Related Keys

- The Tejas Express is India's first semi-high speed fully air-conditioned train Introduced by Indian Railways.
- The inaugural run of Tejas Express was on 24 May 2017 from Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus

2. Which Railway zone has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with State Bank of India (SBI) for 'doorstep banking'?

Answer: South Central Railway

Explanation:

- Indian Railways' **South Central Railway**(SCR) zone has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **State Bank of India**(SBI) for '**doorstep banking**'. The signed MoU will help in direct pickup of earnings covering all 585 Railway stations over SCR Zone.
- With the facility of direct pick up of cash from all the railway stations it will save the tedious and complex activity of movement of cash earnings through 'cash safes' by train.

Related Keys

- The South Central Railway Founded: 2 October 1966

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- The South Central Railway Headquarters location: Secunderabad.

3. In which place The first Session of India-Norway Dialogue on Trade & Investment (DTI) was convened?

Answer: New Delhi

Explanation:

- The **first Session of India-Norway Dialogue on Trade & Investment**(DTI) was convened in **New Delhi** on 15-16 January, 2020. The session was based on the Terms of Reference (ToR) signed between **India and Norway** on 8th January, 2019 in New Delhi, during the visit of Prime Minister of Norway.

Related Keys

- Norway Capital: Oslo
- Norway Currency: Norwegian krone

January 19

1. Who launched the 7th Economic Census process in the state?

Answer: Vijay Rupani

Explanation:

- Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** launched the **7th Economic Census** process in the state. The Economic Census process organized by the **Union Ministry of Statistics** and Programme Implementation with the help of Common Service Centres.
- Around 40 thousand enumerators will use mobile applications for the first time to gather information under the guidance of 6,500 supervisors.

Related Keys:

- In 1977 Central Statistical Organization conducted First economic census in collaboration with the Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DES) in the States/Union Territories.

2. Which state ranked the best for parameters on efficiency targets in the review of state and Central government water departments?

Answer: Gujarat

Explanation:

- **Gujarat** ranked the best for parameters on efficiency targets in the review of **state and Central government water departments** by the **ministry of Jal Shakti**.
 - Rajasthan is the third-best, and Delhi is among the worst-performing states, according to the ranking for 2019 circulated to different state governments recently.
- Related Keys:**
- Gujarat Chief Minister : Vijay Rupani
 - Gujarat Governor : AcharyaDevVrat

3. Which Commission will visit the State Goa and hold meetings with the State Government?

Answer: 15th Finance Commission

Explanation:

- The **15th Finance Commission** will visit the State **Goa** and hold meetings with the **State Government and other stakeholders** on 23rd -24th January 2020.
- Chairman, will head the Commission. **N.K. Singh** and include all its Members and senior officials. The Commission had a meeting with the Principal Accountant General of Goa, who made a detailed presentation to the Commission on the State's finances.

Related Keys:

- Finance Commission Formed : 22 November 1951 under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution
- Finance Commission Headquarters : New Delhi

January 20

1. Who headed and finalized its report to change the legal framework that will help prevent sexual harassment of women at work places?

Answer: Amit Shah

Explanation:

- On January 19, 2020, the Group of Ministers headed by Home Minister **Amit Shah** finalized its report to change the legal framework that will help **prevent sexual harassment of women at work places**.

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- The Group of Ministers was constituted in October 2018 after the “Me Too” campaign. The group was reconstituted under the Home Minister in July 2019

Related Keys

- Vishaka guidelines issued by Supreme Court in 1997. It is to be noted that the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace, 2013 was constituted based on Vishaka guidelines.
- According to NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau), in 2017 and 2018, the number of sexual harassments of women at work premises were 479 and 401.

2. Who will lead the Indian delegation to the 50th World Economic Forum at Davos?

Answer: Piyush Goyal

Explanation:

- Commerce Minister **Piyush Goyal** will lead the Indian delegation to the **50th World Economic Forum at Davos** from January 20 to 24. 53 heads of state or government from 117 countries are participating in the event.
- The theme of this year's WEF is 'Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World'.

Related Keys

- World Economic Forum Founded: January 1971
- World Economic Forum Headquarters: Switzerland.

3. Which Mission has taken up the initiative under Namami Gange Project to conserve wetlands of the Ganges basin?

Answer: National Mission of Clean Ganga

Explanation:

- The **National Mission of Clean Ganga** (NMCG) has taken up the initiative under Namami Gange Project to conserve wetlands of the Ganges basin. The primary aim of Namami Gange project is to rejuvenate the river by increasing its flow. It also includes recharging aquifers and conservation of wetlands.

Related Keys

- **Ramsar** Convention is an intergovernmental treaty that was established in 1971 by UNESCO.
- There are 27 Ramsar sites in India.

January 21

1. Which Development Authority has added 135 laboratories to the existing 51 laboratories?

Answer: APEDA

Explanation:

- On January 20, 2020, the **APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority)** has added 135 laboratories to the existing 51 laboratories. With this initiative, the total number of agricultural product testing laboratories in the country has increased to 186.

Related Keys

- Agricultural sector today employs more than **60%** of the population.
- India is one of the highest-ranking countries in terms of rice, dairy, cotton, fruits, meat, vegetables and seafood.

2. Who launched party's Guarantee Card ahead of upcoming assembly elections in the national capital?

Answer: Arvind Kejriwal

Explanation:

- Aam Aadmi Party national convener and Chief Minister of Delhi **Arvind Kejriwal** launched party's Guarantee Card ahead of upcoming assembly elections in the national capital.
- This card lists 10 promises that AAP will deliver on if it is elected to rule Delhi again.
- It included free bus services, electricity, water supply, pollution, etc.

Related Keys

- Delhi the second-highest populated city in India after Mumbai,
- Delhi Literacy (2011) 86.21%[17]

January 22

1. Which are two persons inaugurate Check Post (ICP) Biratnagar?

Answer: Narendra Modi, K P Sharma

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Explanation:

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi and his Nepali counterpart K P Sharma Oli** inaugurated Integrated Check Post (ICP) **Biratnagar**. ICP Biratnagar has been built on 260 acres of land at a cost of around 140 crore rupees.
- It has the facilities for immigration clearance of foreign passengers, export and import cargo handling. It is designed to handle around 500 trucks per day.

Related Keys

- Nepal Capital: Kathmandu
- Nepal Currency: Nepalese rupee

2. Which Air Force has inducted its first squadron of Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft carrying the BrahMos missiles in the South at its Thanjavur?

Answer: Indian Air Force

Explanation:

- The **Indian Air Force** has inducted its first squadron of **Sukhoi-30 MKI** aircraft carrying the BrahMos missiles in the South at its **Thanjavur** base in Tamil Nadu.
- The Chief of Defence Staff General **Bipin Rawat** and the Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Bhadauria inducted the squadron at an impressive ceremony.

Related Keys

- Indian Air Force Founded: 8 October 1932.
- Indian Air Force Headquarters: New Delhi

3. In which place Republic Day Parade held?

Answer: Rajpath, New Delhi

Explanation:

- The **Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** operating under **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** is to showcase tableau on Start Up India at the Republic Day Parade to be held at **Rajpath, New Delhi**.
- The tableau is to be held under the Theme: Reach for the sky

Related Keys

- The Tableau will showcase the stages of life cycle of a start-up

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- The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed a bill proposing three capitals, Legislative, Executive and Judicial for the state. The Assembly passed the AP Decentralization and Inclusive Development of All Regions Bill this regard.

4. In which place is proposed to be the Executive capital?

Answer: Visakhapatnam

Explanation:

- **Visakhapatnam** is proposed to be the **Executive capital**, **Amaravati** **Legislative capital** and **Kurnool** will be the **Judicial capital**.

Related Keys

- Andhra Pradesh Literacy rate: 67.41% (2011)
- Andhra Pradesh Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan

January 23

1. Who will arrive in New Delhi on a four-day state visit to India?

Answer: Jair Messias Bolsonaro

Explanation:

- President of Brazil **Jair Messias Bolsonaro** will arrive in **New Delhi** on a four-day state visit to India. President Bolsonaro will be the chief guest at the **71st Republic Day** Parade at **RajPath** in the national capital on January 26.
- He will be accompanied by a delegation consisting of seven Ministers, Chairman of Brazil-India Friendship Group in the Brazilian Parliament.

Related Keys

- Brazil Capital: Brasilia
- Brazil Official language: Portuguese

January 24

1. Who gave approval to the Election Commission of India to enter into MoU with the Independent High Authority for Elections of Tunisia?

Answer: Cabinet

Explanation:

- The **Cabinet** gave approval to the **Election Commission of India** to enter into **MoU with the Independent High Authority for Elections of Tunisia** and the Papua New Guinea Election Commission.
- The MoU has been signed for elections for cooperation in the field of electoral management and administration.

Related Keys

- Election Commission of India Formed: 25 January 1950
- Election Commission of India Headquarters: New Delhi

2. Which are persons jointly inaugurated the first convention centre established in Africa by India to honor the memory of Mahatma Gandhi?

Answer: S. Jaishankar, Mahamadou Issoufou

Explanation:

- External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** and President of Niger **Mahamadou Issoufou** on 21st January jointly inaugurated the first convention centre established in Africa by India to honour the memory of **Mahatma Gandhi**.
- The External Affairs Ministry said in a statement that the establishment of the **Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC)** is a landmark for India-Niger friendship, as also a symbol of India's firm commitment towards Africa.

3. Which Ministry recently announced that India has achieved the complete phase out of ozone depleting Hydro Chloro Fluoro Carbons (HCFC)?

Answer: EFoCC

Explanation:

- **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (EFoCC)** recently announced that India has achieved the complete phase out of ozone depleting **Hydro Chloro Fluoro Carbons (HCFC)**. The achievement has its route to the Montreal Protocol.

Related Keys

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Formed – 1985
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Headquarters - New Delhi.

4. Which Council approved the Procurement of defence equipment that are of worth

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Rs 5,100 crores?

Answer: the Defence Acquisition Council

Explanation:

- On January 22, 2020, **the Defence Acquisition Council** approved the Procurement of defence equipment that are of worth **Rs 5,100 crores**. The equipment are to be purchased from indigenous sources.
- The equipment to be purchased include electronic Warfare systems that are manufactured by **DRDO**.

Related Keys

- Ministry of Defence Formed 1776;
- Ministry of Defence Headquarters- New Delh

January 25

1. Which Aayog announced that it will launch National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP)?

Answer: NITI Aayog

Explanation:

- On January 23, 2020, **NITI Aayog** announced that it will launch **National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP)**. The Platform aims to democratize access of government data. In other words, the platform aims to make the data across all sectors coherent.
- The **NDAP** will act as a platform for different stakeholders to access data in an easy way. It will host latest data from all the government websites.

Related Keys

- NITI Aayog Formed: 1 January 2015
- NITI Aayog Headquarters: New Delhi.

2. Who will lay a wreath at the National War Memorial, which was opened on February 25, 2019?

Answer: Narendra Modi

Explanation:

- Changing a decades-old tradition, the **71st Republic Day** ceremony will not begin from India Gate, where the Prime Minister commemorates soldiers who have died in combat for India.

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- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will lay a wreath at the **National War Memorial**, which was opened on February 25, 2019.

Related Keys

- National War Memorial Opened: 25 February 2019
- National War Memorial Location: India Gate Circle, New Delhi.

3. Which Bank raised the investment limit for FPIs in government and corporate bonds?

Answer: Reserve Bank of India

Explanation:

- The **Reserve Bank of India** raised the investment limit for **FPIs** in **government and corporate bonds**. In two separate notifications, the central bank said foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) can now invest **30 per cent** of their portfolios in central and state government securities, including in treasury bills, from the 20 per cent earlier.
- Similarly, in corporate bonds, too, short-term investments can now be 30 percent of the portfolio from 20 per cent earlier.

Related Keys

- Reserve Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai
- Reserve Bank of India Founder: British Raj.

January 27

1. In which place Bharat Parv 2020 begun?

Answer: Red Fort in New Delhi

Explanation:

- On January 26, 2020, **Bharat Parv 2020** begun at **Red Fort in New Delhi**. The programme is to continue till 1st February, 2020.
- The objective of the Programme is to increase patriotism among the citizens and also to encourage them visit tourist places in the country. The programme is being organized by **Ministry of tourism**.

Related keys:

- Bharat Parv is recognized as National Festival. Bharat Parv is being celebrated since 2016.
- Theme: Celebrating 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi & Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

2. Which Government announced 141 Padma Awards on the occasion of 71st Republic Day celebrations?

Answer: Government of India

Explanation:

- On January 26, 2020, **Government of India** announced **141 Padma Awards** on the occasion of 71st Republic Day celebrations. Former Union Ministers George **Fernandes**, **Arun Jaitley** and **Sushma Swaraj** are to be awarded with **Padma Vibhushan** posthumously.
- The former CM of Goa Manohar Parrikar is to be conferred with the award posthumously.

Related keys:

- Former PM of Mauritius Anerood Jugnauth, Boxer MC Mary Kom, Hindustani classical vocalist Chhannulal Mishra are also to be awarded with the prestigious award.

3. Which Government launched the Shiv Bhojan Scheme?

Answer: Maharashtra Government

Explanation:

- At the 71st celebrations of Republic Day, **Maharashtra Government** launched the **Shiv Bhojan Scheme**. The scheme will offer meals at Rs 10 to the poor.
- The scheme aims at providing affordable, quality food to all. The State Government has estimated that the scheme would cost **Rs 6.4 crores**.

Related keys:

- The centres of the scheme are opened at places where the below poverty line citizens live. Also, it is to be opened in areas like district hospitals, markets, railway stations.
- Initially the Government has planned to set up 50 such centres.

January 28

1. Which Lab was launched at the Integrated Startup Complex of the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)?

Answer: country's first Super Fab Lab

Explanation:

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- The **country's first Super Fab Lab** was launched at the **Integrated Startup Complex of the Kerala Startup Mission** (KSUM). The lab will give a major push to the hardware industry in the country and the only such facility outside the U.S.

- The Super Fab Lab will function in collaboration with the MIT.

Related keys

- Kerala Governor: **Arif Mohammad Khan**
- Kerala Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- KSUM has launched India's First Super Fab lab which would give major push to the hardware industry.

2. Which online portal has launched by Union ministry of road transport and highways?

Answer: 'GATI'

Explanation:

- The **Union ministry of road transport and highways** has launched an online portal '**GATI**'.
- The new portal created by **NHAI** on the lines of **PRAGATI** portal used by **PMO** can be accessed from NHAI website and contractors, concessionaires can raise any project related issues on it.
- Issues raised on GATI portal will be monitored daily by a team of officers in NHAI.

Related keys

- NHAI Founded: 1988
- NHAI Sector: Indian National Highway System
- NHAI have created and launched online portal 'GATI' on the lines of PRAGATI Portal . It will be monitored daily by a team of officers in NHAI.

January 29

1. Which scheme released its financial statement recently?

Answer: MGNREGA

Explanation:

- The **MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Employment Act)** scheme released its financial statement recently. According to the statement, almost **96%** of the money has already been

spent. Only **2,500 crores of rupees** is left to sustain the scheme for the next two months.

- According to the financial statement of the scheme, 15 states are in red meaning, there is fund depletion or fund unavailability.

Related News

- MGNREGA Launch year: 2006
- MGNREGA Ministry: Ministry of Rural Development

2. Who is inaugurate DefExpo 2020 which will be held in Lucknow?

Answer: Narendra Modi

Explanation:

- Seeking to push Make in India in Defence, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is expected to inaugurate **DefExpo 2020** which will be held in **Lucknow** from February 5-9. Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** will hold a curtain raiser meeting on the eve of the exhibition
- The event is also being seen as a major push by the government towards building a strong military infrastructure in Uttar Pradesh

Related News

- Ministry of defence - Founded: 15 August 1947
- Ministry of defence - Headquarters: New Delhi

3. Which Ministry declared that Ramsar Convention had added 10 more sites from India?

Answer: Union Ministry

Explanation:

- On January 28, 2020, the **Union Ministry** declared that Ramsar Convention had added **10 more sites from India**. Today, there are **37 Ramsar sites** in the country.
- Among the 10 sites, **Maharashtra** gets its first Ramsar site. The other wetlands sites include one in Uttar Pradesh and 3 in **Punjab**

Related News

- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

4. Which dreaded insurgent groups of Assam signed an accord with government?

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Answer: National Democratic Front of Bodo land

Explanation:

- The government signed an accord with the **National Democratic Front of Bodoland**, one of the dreaded insurgent groups of Assam.
- The pact, described as **“historic”** by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, provides for setting up of a commission to reconstitute the **Bodo Territorial Area District** (BTAD) by including new Bodo-dominated villages.

January 30

1. Which University Press (OUP) named ‘Samvidhaan’ (Constitution) the Oxford Hindi Word of 2019?

Answer: Oxford University

Explanation:

- **Oxford University** Press (OUP) named **‘Samvidhaan’** (Constitution) the **Oxford Hindi Word of 2019**. OUP said that it received widespread attention in the year which was witness to the spirit of the Indian Constitution being embraced across segments of the society.
- The Oxford Hindi Word of the Year is a word or expression that has attracted a great deal of attention of the year.

Related Keys

- Oxford University Press Headquarters: Oxford, United Kingdom
- Oxford University Press Founded: 1586.

2. Which Summit is an annual event organized by The Energy and Resources Institute?

Answer: World Sustainable Summit

Explanation:

- The **World Sustainable Summit** is an annual event organized by The **Energy and Resources Institute** (TERI) is to be held between January 29, 2020 and January 31, 2020 at **New Delhi**. The theme of the event is Theme: ‘Towards 2030: Making the Decade Count’.

Related Keys

- It is being organized since 2001.
- The concept of Sustainable Development has its roots in sustainable forest management during 17th and 18th century.

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3. Which Ship has reached its base harbour at Chennai?

Answer: Coast Guard Ship Annie Besant

Explanation:

- The recently inducted Indian **Coast Guard Ship Annie Besant** has reached its base **harbour at Chennai**. It was received with pomp and splendour by the staff and their family members of the Coast Guard Chennai office.
- The ship Annie Besant is the **third Fast Patrol Vessel** of the **'Priyadarshini'** class.

Related Keys

- Chennai port (Harbor) Opened: 1881; 139 years ago
- Chennai port (Harbor) is the second largest container port of India.

4. Which Program has emerged the best performing states in terms of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)?

Answer: UNDP

Explanation:

- According to the **United National Development Program (UNDP)**, **Telangana** has emerged the best performing states in terms of achieving **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**. It is to be noted that in December 2019, India released SDG India Index.
- India was the first country to release SDG index. The index was launched by NITI Aayog.

Related Keys

- United National Development Programme Founded: 22 November 1965, United States
- United National Development Programme Headquarters: New York, New York, United States

January 31

1. Which Railways is implement plans for RFID (Radio Frequency Identification)?

Answer: Indian Railways

Explanation:

- The **Indian Railways** is to implement plans for RFID (Radio Frequency Identification). The railways is to tag around **3,50,000** rolling stocks by

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2021. Under the program, around **3,500 coaches** have been fitted with RFID so far.

- This will help the Indian Railways in early identification of rolling stock.

Related Keys

- Indian Railways - Founded: 16 April 1853, India
- Indian Railways - Headquarters: New Delhi

2. In which place A Joint Military Exercise between India and Bangladesh is to be held?

Answer: Umroi, Meghalaya

Explanation:

- A Joint Military Exercise between **India and Bangladesh** is to be held at **Umroi, Meghalaya** between 3rd February, 2020 and 16th February, 2020. The exercise is called **"SAMPRITI"**.
- During the joint exercise, Command Post Exercise and Field Training Exercise is to be conducted according to United Nations Charter.

Related Keys

- Bangladesh Prime minister: Sheikh Hasina
- Bangladesh Currency: Bangladeshi taka

3. In which anniversary of the formation of Shri Ram Chandra Mission and Heartfulness Institute, unveiled the meditation centre?

Answer: 75th anniversary

Explanation:

- To mark the **75th anniversary** of the formation of **Shri Ram Chandra Mission and Heartfulness Institute**, unveiled the meditation centre slated to be the world's largest. The centre that can accommodate one lakh meditation people at a time.
- Built on **30 acres**, the meditation centre with a central hall and eight peripheral halls to accommodate **1,00,000 people**, will offer meditation training free.

4. Which Cabinet has approved the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020?

Answer: Union Cabinet

Explanation:

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- **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020**. The bill will amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. The limit of termination of pregnancy has been increased from 20 weeks to 24 weeks.
- For Medical termination of pregnancy, permission will be needed, from two doctors and one of them must be a government doctor.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

January 1

1. Which government has said that it will develop Batticaloa airport in eastern province as an international airport with Indian assistance?

Answer: Sri Lankan government

Explanation:

- **Sri Lankan government** has said that it will develop **Batticaloa airport** in eastern province as an international airport with Indian assistance. Minister of Tourism and aviation **Prasanna Ranatunga** said, the Indian government has extended its fullest cooperation to develop the domestic airport and it has been discussed with the Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka **Taranjit Singh Sandhu** recently.
- The Government of India would like to extend its air services to **Batticaloa** airport as well.

Related Keys

- Sri Lankan President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- Sri Lankan Currency: Sri Lankan rupee

January 3

1. Which country is renowned for its marine life and is regarded as one of the world's best diving destinations?

Answer: Palau

Explanation:

- Palau's pioneering ban on **"reef-toxic"** sunscreens takes effect. The tiny **Pacific island** nation introduced **strict environmental measures**.

- **Palau** is renowned for its **marine life** and is regarded as one of the **world's best diving destinations**. But, the government is concerned this poses an environmental cost.

Related Keys

- Palau Capitals: Ngerulmud, Melekeok
- Palau Currency: United States Dollar

January 4

1. Who has become the youngest girl in the world to achieve the feat of conquering Vinson Massif, the Antarctica continent's highest mountain peak?

Answer: Malavath Poorna

Explanation:

- 18y/o **Malavath Poorna**, who has become the youngest girl in the world to achieve the feat of conquering Mt. **Vinson Massif**, the Antarctica continent's highest mountain peak (4,987m).
- At the age of **13 years** she became the world's youngest girl who scaled Mt. Everest.

Related Keys

- Vinson Massif was discovered in January 1958 by U.S. Navy aircraft
- Mount Vinson is the highest peak in Antarctica.

January 6

1. Which word is used in English by a growing number of non-binary individuals, people who do not identify as either male or female?

Answer: "They"

Explanation:

- Neutral pronoun 'they' has been voted word of the decade by **US language** experts, beating out other contenders. **"They"** is used in English by a growing number of non-binary individuals, people who do not identify as either male or female.
- They prefer the plural neutral pronoun to bypass using the pronouns "he" or "she".

January 8

1. Which Cabinet has approved the issuance of a five-year multi-entry tourist visa

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for all nationalities visiting the country?

Answer:UAE Cabinet

Explanation:

- The **UAE Cabinet** has approved the issuance of a **five-year multi-entry tourist visa** for all nationalities visiting the country. The decision was made during the Cabinet's first meeting of 2020. The move comes in a bid to support the UAE's tourism economy, and affirm the country's position as a global tourist destination.
- Ruler of **Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid** said the country receives **21 million tourists** annually and their aim is to establish the country as a major global tourist destination.

Related Keys

- UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi
- UAE Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham

January 10

1. Which country tourism suffered a setback following Easter Sunday attacks last April and the annual tourist arrival dropped by 18 percent since 2018?

Answer:Sri Lankan

Explanation:

- India continued to be the top sourcing market for Sri Lankan tourism with Indian tourists constituting maximum **19 percent** of total tourist arrivals to the island nation in 2019. The latest data released by Sri Lankan tourism revealed that **3,55,002 Indian tourists** visited **Sri Lanka** last year against total arrival of around 1.91 million.
- **Sri Lankan tourism** suffered a setback following Easter Sunday attacks last April and the annual tourist arrival dropped by 18 percent since 2018 figures.

Related Keys

- President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- Prime Minister - Mahinda Rajapaksa

January 12

1. Which ministry has hailed a "breakthrough" in the development of cheaper laser-based air defences?

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Answer:Israeli defence ministry

Explanation:

- The **Israeli defence ministry** has hailed a "**breakthrough**" in the development of cheaper **laser-based air defences**, as tensions soar in the region after Iran hit US targets in retaliation for a high-profile assassination.
- The lasers, still under development, would be capable of intercepting "**everything**" fired at Israel, including long and medium range missiles, rockets, mortar rounds and drones, an official told AFP on Thursday, asking not to be identified.

Related Keys

- The Israeli defence ministry Formed - 1948
- The Israeli defence ministry Headquarters Matcal Tower, Tel Aviv

January 13

1. Which place the World Future Energy Summit is to begin?

Answer: Abu Dhabi

Explanation:

- On January 13, 2020, the **World Future Energy Summit** is to begin at **Abu Dhabi**. It is to be held for four days.
- The Summit will have **33,500 participants from 170 countries**. It will also include **800 special exhibits**. Theme: Rethinking Global Consumption, Production and Investment.

Related Keys:

- World Future Energy Summit is an annual event being conducted at Abu Dhabi since 2011.
- The **Climate Innovation Exchange (CLIX)** was launched in World Future Energy Summit, 2018.

January 15

1. Which Bank said Sri Lanka is expected to grow by 3.3% in 2020 compared to a projected 2.7% in 2019, while maintaining a tight budget?

Answer: World Bank

Explanation:

- **Sri Lanka** is expected to grow by **3.3% in 2020** compared to a projected **2.7% in 2019**, while maintaining a tight budget, the **World Bank** said. "In

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2020, growth in Sri Lanka is projected to rise to 3.3 per cent,” said the Global Economic Prospects report.

- “Afterwards, acceleration will be supported by recovering investment and exports as long as the security challenges and political uncertainty of 2019 dissipate.”

Related Keys

- Sri Lanka Capitals: Colombo, **Sri Jayawardenepura** Kotte
- Sri Lanka Currency: Sri Lankan rupee

2. Which Ship has arrived in Chennai on a five-day goodwill visit?

Answer: ‘Echigo’

Explanation:

- The **Japan Coast Guard Ship ‘Echigo’** has arrived in **Chennai** on a **five-day goodwill** visit. It will be participating in the Annual Joint Exercise **‘Sahyog-Kaijin’** with the Indian Coast Guard off Chennai.
- This is the 19th such exercise being conducted between the two Coast Guards since 2000.

Related Keys

- Japan Capital: Tokyo
- Japan Currency: Japanese yen

January 16

1. Which department has dropped the designation of China as a currency manipulator?

Answer: US Treasury

Explanation:

- The **US Treasury department** has dropped the designation of **China** as a currency manipulator. It is a gesture that aims to ease tensions with Beijing ahead of this week’s signing of a deal to halt their trade war.
- In August 2019, China was labeled officially as **“currency manipulator”** by the United States and also accused China of using yuan to gain “unfair competitive advantage” in trade.

Related Keys

- China President: Xi Jinping
- China Capital: Beijing

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2. Which are two countries signed key agreements in the field of Information and Broadcasting at the Information and Broadcasting Minister's meet 2020?

Answer: India and Bangladesh

Explanation:

- **India and Bangladesh** signed key agreements in the field of Information and Broadcasting at the Information and Broadcasting Minister's meet 2020, in **New Delhi**.
- Bangladesh has decided to celebrate the '**Mujib Year**' from March 17, 2020 to March 17, 2021 to mark the centenary year of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the first President of Bangladesh.

Related Keys

- Bangladesh Capital: Dhaka
- Bangladesh Prime minister: Sheikh Hasina

January 17

1. Who has decided that the minimum daily wage of estate workers will be 1000 rupees with effect from 1st March?

Answer: Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Explanation:

- Sri Lankan President **Gotabaya Rajapaksa** has decided that the minimum daily wage of estate workers will be **1000 rupees** with effect from 1st March. The decision came on eve of Thai Pongal as most of the estate workers are Tamils of Indian origin.
- The workers have been demanding the 1000 rupee wage since past few years and held several protests during the previous government.

Related Keys

- Sri Lanka Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- Sri Lanka Currency: Sri Lankan rupee

2. Which index was launched based on the data collected from International Air Transport Association?

Answer: Henley Passport Index

Explanation:

- Recently, **Henley Passport Index** was launched. The index was launched based on the data collected from **International Air Transport Association** (IATA).
- Japan has been holding top rank position for the past 3 years. India was in Rank 71 as the index was released in 2006.

Related Keys

- UAE was the historic performer of Henley Passport Index 2020.
- The Index is based on the number of destinations their holders can access without visa.

January 18

1. Which country has inaugurated a new US\$100 million Antarctic base, built by Chinese company CEIEC?

Answer: Brazil

Explanation:

- **Brazil** has inaugurated a new **US\$100 million Antarctic base**, built by Chinese company **CEIEC** to replace a research station destroyed by fire almost seven years ago.
- The new **48,375 sqft** facility was bigger and safer, with **17 laboratories**, a heliport, and other advances. Scientists will use the base to study microbiology, glaciers, and climate, among other areas.

Related Keys

- Brazil Capital: Brasilia
- Brazil Currency: Brazilian real

January 19

1. Which Council recently released “World Gold Outlook 2020” report?

Answer: World Gold Council

Explanation:

- The **World Gold Council** (WGC) recently released its report, **“World Gold Outlook 2020”**. The report says that gold has performed the best since 2010 in 2019. In 2019, the gold trade in USD has increased by **18.4%** as compared to 2010.

- According to the WGC, RBI (Reserve Bank of India) currently holds **625.2 tonnes of gold**. This is 6.6% of the country's foreign exchange. With this, India ranks sixth in the world among other central banks.

Related Keys:

- The WGC is a market development organization.
- The headquarters of WGC is located in London.
- The WGC office in India is located in Mumbai.

January 20

1. Who met Sri Lankan President Gotbaya Rajapaksa On January 19, 2020?

Answer: AjitDoval

Explanation:

- On January 19, 2020, **Indian National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval** met Sri Lankan President **Gotbaya Rajapaksa**. He discussed setting up of maritime research coordination centre in the country.
- The establishment of research centre is important to learn maritime activities in the Indian Ocean Region

Related Keys

- In spite of two maritime agreements that were signed in 1974 and 1976.

January 21

1. Which are two countries signed 33 bilateral deals including agreements, MoUs, exchange letters and protocols on the concluding day of the two day visit?

Answer: Myanmar and China

Explanation:

- **Myanmar and China** signed **33 bilateral deals** including agreements, MoUs, exchange letters and protocols on the concluding day of the two day visit by the Chinese President **Xi Jinping to Myanmar**. A large number of these deals relate to the implementation of the China Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) under the **Belt and Road Initiative** (BRI) launched by China.
- The two countries signed a concession agreement and shareholders' agreement for the **Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone** (SEZ) deep seaport project.

Related Keys

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- Myanmar President Win Myint
- Myanmar Currency: Burmese kyat

January 25

1. Which country supplied 30,000 doses of Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccine to the Maldives?

Answer: India

Explanation:

- **India** supplied **30,000 doses of Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccine** to the Maldives responding swiftly to an emergency request to contain the measles outbreak in the Maldives.
- The vaccine supply was quickly procured and delivered to Maldives Health Ministry within **72 hours** of the request.

Related Keys

- Maldives Currency: Maldivian rufiyaa
- Maldives President : Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

January 26

1. Which are two countries signed an agreement to upgrade Ashuganj-Akhaura road into a 4-lane highway on 24 January?

Answer: India and Bangladesh

Explanation:

- **India and Bangladesh** signed an agreement to upgrade **Ashuganj-Akhauraroad** into a 4-lane highway on 24 January.
- The agreement aim is to upgrade the **50.58 kilometre** long road between Ashuganj river port and the Akhaura land port in Bangladesh into a **4-lane** highway.

Related keys:

- Under the agreement, the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) of Bangladesh and an Indian Company Afcons Infrastructure Limited will upgrade the 39 km long road between the **Ashuganj river port to the Dharhar** area.
- The project is part of the \$2 billion second line of credit (LoC) extended by India to Bangladesh in 2016

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January 27

1. Who visited India to take part in Republic Day celebrations?

Answer: Mr Jair Bolsonaro

Explanation:

- The **President of Brazil, Mr Jair Bolsonaro** visited India to take part in **Republic Day celebrations**. During his visit, the countries signed several agreements.
- The countries signed agreements on trade, cyber security, information technology. The countries have set target to increase bilateral trade to **15 billion USD by 2022**.

Related keys:

- Alongside, the fifth session of India-Brazil Trade monitoring mechanism was also held.
- President **Bolsonaro** was accompanied by a huge business delegation.

January 28

1. Which country has been recently minted the smallest gold coin in the world featuring legendary scientist Albert Einstein?

Answer: Switzerland

Explanation:

- The smallest gold coin in the world featuring legendary scientist **Albert Einstein** has been recently minted by **Switzerland**. The gold coin of about 0.12 inches of diameter has been made by state-owned Swiss mint and features the scientist sticking out his tongue.
- The size of the **coin weighing 1/500th** of an ounce is so small that it comes along with a magnifying glass for observing Einstein's cheeky image.

Related keys

- Switzerland Currency: Swiss franc
- Switzerland is a federal republic composed of 26 cantons

2. Who introduced a new fast-track visa to attract more of the world's best scientists to the U.K. in hopes of creating a global science "superpower"?

Answer: Boris Johnson

Explanation:

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- **British** Prime Minister **Boris Johnson** introduced a new fast-track visa to attract more of the world's best scientists to the U.K. in hopes of creating a global science "**superpower**".
- Johnson paired the announcement of the Global Talent route program with a pledge of **300 million pounds** (\$392 million) for research into advanced mathematics.

Related keys

- Britain is facing its biggest immigration shake-up in decades after it leaves the EU.

3. Which edition of the Oxford dictionary launched on 24th January?

Answer: 10th edition

Explanation:

- The **10th edition of the Oxford dictionary**, which was launched on 24th January, has **384 Indian English words** and incorporates **over 1,000 new words such as chatbot**, fake news and microplastic.
- The dictionary focuses on language change and its evolution through the years, and has ensured that the language and examples used in the new edition are relevant and up to date.

Related keys

- oxford dictionary Originally published: 1 February 1884
- oxford dictionary Publisher: Oxford University Press.

January 31

1. Whowas chairedthe Indian Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU)?

Answer: Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal

Explanation:

- On January 30, 2020, the Indian Commission for Cooperation with **UNESCO (INCCU)** was chaired by the Union Human Resource Development Minister **Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal**.
- Along with the UNESCO commission, the event was also attended by the sub commissions namely Social Sciences, Culture, Education, Natural Sciences and Culture.

Related Keys

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- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945
- UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France

IMPORTANT DAYS

January 4

1. In which day World Braille Day is annually celebrated?

Answer: January 4

Explanation:

- **World Braille Day** is annually celebrated on **January 4**, the **birthday of Braille inventor**, Louis Braille. The day recognizes the contributions of Louis Braille in helping blind and visually impaired people to read and write.
- In November 2018, **the General Assembly decided** to proclaim 4 January as World Braille Day.

January 10

1. In which day Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated every year?

Answer: 9 January

Explanation:

- **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** is celebrated every year to mark the contribution of overseas Indian community in the development of India. It also commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on **9 January 1915**.
- Established in 2003 the celebratory event is organised by the Ministry of External Affairs every year on this day.

Related Keys

- The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman is being presented to honour exceptional NRIs (Non-Resident Indians) for their contribution towards the country.

January 13

1. In which day National Youth Day is observed across india?

Answer: 12 January

Explanation:

- **National Youth Day or Yuva Diwas** is observed on **12 January** across India. The day is celebrated every year to commemorate the birth

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anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. It aims to create awareness and to provide knowledge to the youth about the rights in India.

- The main aim of the celebration of the Youth day is to propagate the philosophy and the ideals of Swami Vivekananda for which he lived and worked.

January 15

1. In which day Army Day is observed every year in india?

Answer: 15 January

Explanation:

- **Army Day** is celebrated on **15 January every year in India**, in recognition of Field Marshal Kodandera **M.Cariappa's** taking over as the **first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army**

January 25

1. In which day National Voters' Day is observed every year?

Answer: January 25

Explanation:

- In order to encourage more young voters to take part in the political process, Government of India has decided to celebrate **January 25** every year as **"National Voters' Day"**.
- This year's theme of National Voters' Day is - 'Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy'

January 26

1. In which day International customs day is observed?

Answer: January 26

Explanation:

- **International customs day** is observed **on 26 january**. The day recognizes the role of custom officials and agencies in maintaining border security.
- The day marks the anniversary of the formation of the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC).

Related keys:

- The day was instituted by the World Customs Organization (WCO) in 1953 during the session of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) which was

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held in Brussels, Belgium.

- On this day, the customs agencies hold employee appreciation events. The agencies recognize the custom officers for their exemplary service.

SCIENCE AND TECH UPDATES

January 3

1. Which organization said the training of astronauts for India's ambitious 'Gaganyaan' manned space mission will start from the third week of January in Russia?

Answer: Indian Space Research Organisation

Explanation:

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation** (ISRO) said the training of astronauts for India's ambitious '**Gaganyaan**' manned space mission will start from the third week of January in Russia. Four astronauts have been identified for the mission.
- K.Sivan also reported the work related to Chandrayaan-3 and Gaganyaan was going on simultaneously.

Related Keys

- ISRO Founded: 15 August 1969
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru

January 5

1. Which organization set up a regional academic center for space at the National Institute of Technology (NITK) at Surathkal in Karnataka's southwest Dakshina?

Answer: Indian Space Research Organisation

Explanation:

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation** (ISRO) set up a regional academic center for space at the National Institute of Technology (NITK) at **Surathkal in Karnataka's southwest Dakshina Kannada district.**
- The center at NIT-K will conduct joint research and development in space technology applications to meet the needs of our space programs.

Related Keys:

- NITK Former name: Karnataka Regional Engineering College
- NITK Established : 1960

January 7

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1. Which organization proposed 2,700 crores of infrastructure plan to construct Human Space Flight Infrastructure Centre?

Answer: ISRO

Explanation:

- On January 6, 2020, the **ISRO proposed 2,700 crores of infrastructure plan to construct Human Space Flight Infrastructure Centre**. The facility is to be set up at Challakere, Chitradurga district of Karnataka and is expected to become operational in three years.
- ISRO aims to establish a self-contained training facility here.

Related Keys

- If ISRO succeeds in the Gaganyaan mission, India will become the fourth country after US, Russia and China to send humans to space.
- Challakere is called the science city as it accommodated facilities of ISRO.

January 9

1. Which Laser detected gravitational wave due to collision of two neutron stars?

Answer: LIGO

Explanation:

- The **LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory)** detected gravitational waves due to collision of two neutron stars. This is the second time the gravitational waves are being detected. The mass of the neutron stars detected is expected to be 3.3 times and 3.7 times as that of the sun.
- The scientists believe that the neutron stars were at a distance of 520 million light years from the earth.

January 10

1. Which Ministry released its year end review for renewable energy?

Answer: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Explanation:

- On January 9, 2020, **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** released its year end review. According to the report, over 150 GW of **renewable energy has been installed so far in India**.
- Under KUSUM initiative, around 17 lakh solar powered agricultural pumps were installed.

Related Keys

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- The scheme to set up solar PV power plants in compliance with the WTO was approved. This was launched to encourage Make in India solar PV manufacturing.

January 11

1. Which University Scientists discovered the smallest clumps of dark matter ever identified called cold dark matter using a new technique?

Answer: University of California

Explanation:

- The scientists from the **University of California** discovered the **smallest clumps of dark matter ever identified called cold dark matter** using a new technique using the Hubble Space Telescope and a feature of general relativity.
- The Small dark matter clumps act as small cracks on the magnifying glass.

Related Keys

- Dark matter is formed of particles that do not reflect, absorb, or emit light, so they cannot be detected by observing electromagnetic radiation. Such matters cannot be seen directly.

January 16

1. Which Organization is launch the communication satellite GSAT-30 onboard Ariane-5 launch vehicle (VA 251) from French Guiana on January 17?

Answer: Indian Space Research Organization

Explanation:

- **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** would launch a communication satellite **GSAT-30 onboard Ariane-5 launch vehicle (VA 251) from French Guiana on January 17**. The 3,357-kg satellite is slated to blast off from the Ariane Launch Complex at Kourou, a French territory located along the northeastern coast of South America.
- GSAT-30 is to serve as a replacement to INSAT-4A spacecraft services with enhanced coverage.

Related Keys

- ISRO Founder: Vikram Sarabhai
- ISRO Founded: 15 August 1969

January 21

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1. Which Country has successfully test-fired a 3,500 kilometre range nuclear capable missile that can be launched from a submarine?

Answer: India

Explanation:

- **India** has successfully test-fired a **3,500 kilometre** range nuclear capable missile that can be launched from a submarine. The test of the **K-4 ballistic missile** was conducted off the Vizag coast in Andhra Pradesh on January 19.
- With this test, India has moved one more step towards the induction of this ballistic missile on the INS Arihant class of nuclear submarines. The missile was developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Related Keys

- DRDO Founded: 1958
- DRDO is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

January 23

1. Which Country will train Indian flight surgeons to enable them to monitor the health of astronauts selected for the ambitious human space mission Gaganyaan?

Answer: France

Explanation:

- **France** will train Indian flight surgeons to enable them to monitor the health of astronauts selected for **the ambitious human space mission Gaganyaan**. The two-week training is a critical aspect of the Gaganyaan project that is aimed at sending three Indians to space by 2022.
- The flight surgeons, who will be Indian Air Force doctors specialising in aviation medicines and responsible for the health of astronauts before, during and after flight, will be shortlisted soon.

Related Keys

- Gaganyaan crewed vehicle is planned to be launched on ISRO's GSLV Mk III in December 2021.
- Gaganyaan Manufacturer - HAL and ISRO

January 27

1. Which Organization displayed the A-SAT weapon system?

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Answer: DRDO

Explanation:

- The **Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO)** displayed the **A-SAT weapon** system. A-SAT is the Anti-Satellite Weapon System.
- India is one of the few countries in the world to own the technology. The other countries include US, China and Russia.

Related keys:

- DRDO launched “Mission Shakti”, the first A-SAT mission. The mission demonstrated anti-satellite technology.
- The mission destroyed a live orbiting satellite at the Low Earth Orbit.

SPORTS

January 1

1. Who has become the youngest bowler in history to take 100 wickets in T20 cricket?

Answer: Mujeeb Ur Rahman

Explanation:

- **Afghanistan spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman** has become the youngest bowler in history to take **100 wickets** in T20 cricket. Mujeeb achieved the feat at the **age of 18 years and 271 days**.
- By doing this he broke the record of Afghanistan all-rounder Rashid Khan, who had reached 100 T20 wickets at the age of 18 years and 360 days.

Related Keys

- Afghanistan President: Ashraf Ghani
- Afghanistan Capital: Kabul

January 2

1. How many athletes will take part in the 3rd Khelo India youth games in Guwahati?

Answer: 6500

Explanation:

- **6500 athletes from 37 teams** will take part in **the 3rd Khelo India youth games in Guwahati** beginning from 10th of January. Talking to AIR, Chief Executive Officer of the event, Avinash Joshi said that lawn bowls and cycling will be included in the Khelo India for the first time.

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- The CEO added that cultural events from Assam, North East and rest of the country will be held from 13th to 15th January.

January 5

1. Who has become the world no 1 young table tennis player in the under-21 category?

Answer: Manav Thakkar

Explanation:

- India's **young table tennis player Manav Thakkar** has become the **world's number one player in the under-21 category**.
- In the latest rankings of International Table Tennis, Manav has jumped nine places to occupy the top position in the Men's Single category. Manav has become the first Indian player to achieve the number one chair in this category.

Related Keys:

- Manav also reached number one in the under-18 category two years ago.
- Manav was also a part of the bronze medal winning table tennis team at the Asian Games in 2018.

January 8

1. In which place The first edition of Khelo India University Games is scheduled to be held?

Answer: KIIT University in Bhubaneswar

Explanation:

- **The first edition of Khelo India University Games** is scheduled to be held at **the KIIT University in Bhubaneswar from February 22nd to March 1st**. The launching ceremony of the event was held at Bhubaneswar yesterday.
- Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiled the logo and jersey of Khelo India University Games.

January 13

1. Which award is presented to the best male International cricketer?

Answer: Polly Umrigar award

Explanation:

- The **BCCI Annual Awards** function, grabbing the prestigious Polly **Umrigar award** apart from annexing the Dilip Sardesai honour for his exploits in international cricket in the 2018-19 season.
- **Polly Umrigar award** is presented to the **best male International cricketer** and it carries a citation, trophy and cheque for Rs. 15 lakh.
- Dilip Sardesai award is conferred on both the highest wicket-taker and highest run-getter in Test cricket. Bumrah took 34 wickets in six matches with three five-wicket hauls.

Related Keys:

- Formed in December 1928
- CEO: Rahul Johri
- Headquarters :Wankhede Stadium

January 20

1. Who won her first gold medal of the 2020 season at the Rome Ranking Series?

Answer: Vinesh Phogat

Explanation:

- A dominant **Vinesh Phogat** won her **first gold medal of the 2020 season at the Rome Ranking Series** event after teen sensation **Anshu Malik settled for a silver in 57 kg competition, in Rome.**
- Vinesh downed two tough Chinese rivals on her way to the 53kg gold medal bout in which she overpowered Ecuador's Luisa Elizabeth Valverde 4-0.

January 21

1. How many medals India won in the Rome series tournament?

Answer: seven

Explanation:

- In wrestling, India has returned with **seven medals** from the Rome Ranking Series. **Bajrang Punia** and **Ravi Kumar Dahiya** claimed **gold medals** in the tournament.
- The 25-year-old Bajrang staged a comeback to secure a 4-3 win against USA's Jordan Michael Oliver in the 65kg freestyle category.

January 23

1. Which published the first jointly issued legacy planning strategy ahead of the football World Cup in 2022?

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Answer: Qatar and FIFA

Explanation:

- **Qatar and FIFA** published the first jointly issued legacy planning strategy ahead of the **football World Cup in 2022**. FIFA and the Qatari Supreme Committee organizers said in a statement in Doha that it contains pledges on labour and LGBT rights alongside protections for activists and journalists.
- A total of 22 objectives have been described in detail.

Related Keys

- Qatar Capital: Doha
- Qatar Currency: Qatari riyal

2. Who have clinched a gold medal each in Meyton Cup in Innsbruck?

Answer: Divyansh Singh Pawar and Apurvi Chandela

Explanation:

- Indian shooters **Divyansh Singh Pawar and Apurvi Chandela** have clinched a gold medal each in **Meyton Cup in Innsbruck, Austria**. The Meyton Cup is a private tournament where shooters go on their own to participate to gain experience before international events.
- While Divyansh won the gold in the men's 10m air rifle event with an effort of 249.7, Auprvi bagged the yellow metal in the 10m air rifle women's category with a 251.4.

January 31

1. Whohas qualified for the Tokyo Olympics with a throw of 87.86 metres at the Athletics Central North East meeting in South Africa?

Answer: Neeraj Chopra

Explanation:

- Indian javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra**has qualified for the **Tokyo Olympics**with a throw of **87.86 metres**at the Athletics Central North East meeting in South Africa. The 22-year-old Asian breached the Olympic qualification mark of 85 metres in his fourth attempt at Potchefstroom.
- Neeraj had missed the **IAAF World Championships**, the Diamond League and the Asian Championships due to an elbow injury.

Related Keys

- Tokyo was selected as the host city for Olympics 2020 during the 125th IOC Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 7 September 2013.

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- Tokyo Olympics Dates: Fri, 24 Jul, 2020 – Sun, 9 Aug, 2020

ECONOMY

January 9

1. Which Commission released its report on "Market Study on E-Commerce in India: Key Findings and Observation"?

Answer: Competition Commission of India

Explanation:

- On January 8, 2020, the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** released its report on **"Market Study on E-Commerce in India: Key Findings and Observation"**. The market study for the report was initiated in April 2019 by CCI.
- According to the report, the number of internet users have increased from 445.96 million in 2017 to 665.31 million in 2019.

Related Keys

- Competition Commission of India Founded: 14 October 2003
- Competition Commission of India Headquarters: **New Delhi**

2. Which country economy is estimated to grow at 5 per cent in 2019-20 as against 6.8 per cent in the previous fiscal?

Answer: Indian economy

Explanation:

- The **Indian economy** is estimated to grow at **5 per cent in 2019-20 as against 6.8 per cent** in the previous fiscal. According to the first advance estimates of national income released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, the decline has been mainly on account of deceleration in manufacturing sector growth, which is expected to come down to 2 per cent in 2019-20 from 6.2 per cent in the year-ago fiscal.
- The deceleration was also witnessed in sectors like agriculture, construction and electricity, gas and water supply.

Related Keys

- National Statistical Office Founded: 1965
- National Statistical Office Headquarters location: **Zomba, Malawi**

January 18

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1. Which retailer announced that it has planned to invest 1 billion USD in India and generate 1 million jobs?

Answer: Amazon

Explanation:

- On January 17, 2020, one of the **world's largest retailer Amazon** announced that it has planned to invest **1 billion USD in India** and generate **1 million jobs**. Globally Amazon has increased its employee base four times.
- In order to involve small and medium businesses, a mega summit called the **smbhav** was organized by Amazon in the capital on January 14, 2020.

Related Keys

- Amazon Founder: **Jeff Bezos**
- Amazon Founded : July 5, 1994

AWARDS

January 6

1. Which Government has announced first 'Antarrashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman' for several media houses?

Answer: Government of India

Explanation:

- The **Government of India** has announced first '**Antarrashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman**' for several media houses. This award will be conferred on January 7, 2020, to **30** media houses.
- The objective behind this award is to bring positivity and acknowledge the role of media in the outreach of Yoga in the world.

Related Keys

- The International Day of Yoga has been celebrated annually on 21 June since 2015.
- The idea of International Day of Yoga was first proposed by the current Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi.

January 11

1. Who won the Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National Award for Excellence and Muppavarapu National Award for Social Service?

Answer: M S Swaminathan and Dr. Gutta Muniratnam

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Explanation:

- Famous Agricultural Scientist **Prof. M S Swaminathan** and **Dr. Gutta Muniratnam** were chosen as the first recipients of **Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National Award for Excellence** and **Muppavarapu National Award for Social Service** a respectively.
- The award carried cash prize of Rs.5 lakh and citation.

Related Keys

- The National Award for Excellence was instituted by the Muppavarapu Foundation. The award for Social Service was launched by the Swarna Bharat Trust, in Hyderabad.

January 14

1. Who has been honoured with Global Child Prodigy Award 2020?

Answer: Ishwar Sharma

Explanation:

- **Ishwar Sharma** from the UK has been honoured with **the Global Child Prodigy Award 2020**. The award recognized for the **achievements in spiritual discipline yoga**.
- He received his Certificate of Achievement at a special event attended by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and Dr. Kiran Bedi, Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, in New Delhi in January 2020.

Related Keys:

- The award is a Global Talent Recognition for Child Prodigies.
- The award recognizes the kids below 15 years who are extraordinary in their own way.

January 24

1. Who presented the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, 2020 at Rashtrapati Bhavan?

Answer: Ram Nath Kovind

Explanation:

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** presented the **PradhanMantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, 2020 at Rashtrapati Bhavan**. The BalPuraskar is given by the government every year to recognize exceptional achievements of children in various fields.

- These fields are innovation, scholastic achievements, social service, arts and culture, sports and bravery.

Related Keys

- The Bal Shakti Puraskar is given to children in the fields of innovation, social service, scholastic, sports, art and culture, and bravery. the award carries a medal, a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, a certificate and a citation.

January 26

1. Who was awarded Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize 2020?

Answer: Sneha Pamneja

Explanation:

- **Sneha Pamneja**, a well known Graphic designer based in New Delhi, was awarded **Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize 2020**, a 1st of its kind award for brilliance in book design, at Jaipur Book Mark of ongoing 13th edition of the Zee Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) at Diggi Palace Hotel in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- She was honoured for designing the cover of the book 'Tiffin: Authentic Recipes Celebrating India's Regional Cuisine'.

Related keys:

- Pamneja was awarded a trophy and a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh for designing an attractive cover.
- The award was presented to her by the jury comprising Jurors Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Namita Gokhale and Shobhaa De.

January 27

1. Who won the Padma Shri award from Telangana?

Answer: Chinthala venkat reddy

Explanation:

- **Farmer Chinthala Venkat Reddy** won the **Padma Shri award** from Telangana. He was awarded for attaining an **international patent for his technique in soil swapping and soil fertility**.
- He is the first independent farmers in India to win the international patent for the technique.

Related keys:

- Chinthala Venkat Reddy used the old method of rejuvenating the topsoil to obtain double crop production, instead of using fertilizers.

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- He has a grape farm at Kundanpally in Keesara. He grows black grapes, rice, wheat, and vegetables.

APPOINTMENTS

January 3

1. Who has assumed the charge of chairman Railway Board for a period of one year?

Answer: Vinod Kumar Yadav

Explanation:

- **Vinod Kumar Yadav** has assumed the charge of **Chairman, Railway Board after being reappointed.**
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the reappointment of Vinod Kumar Yadav as Chairman, Railway Board for a period of one year.

Related Keys

- Railway Board Founded 16 April 1853
- Railway Board Headquarters New Delhi, India

January 16

1. Who is CEO of DHFL?

Answer: Kapil Wadhawan

Explanation:

- **Former co-founder and CEO of e-commerce giant Flipkart** recently acquired DHFL General Insurance from the **Kapil Wadhawan**-led Wadhawan Group of companies for 100 crore. The deal is seen as a distress sale for Kapil Wadhawan-led financial services group, which used to run the debt-laden DHFL.
- With this acquisition, Bansal has entered into the insurance business.

○ **Related Keys**

- DHFL CEO: Kapil Wadhawan
- DHFL Headquarters: India

January 22

1. Who was elected unopposed as the national president of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party?

Answer: Jagat Prakash Nadda

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Explanation:

- **BJP leader Jagat Prakash Nadda** was elected **unopposed** as the national president of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in **New Delhi**. He will now be the BJP's president for three years till 2022.
- The announcement was made by senior BJP leader Radha Mohan Singh.

January 25

1. Who has elected as first female president in the history of Greek parliament?

Answer: Katerina Sakellaropoulou

Explanation:

- **The Greek parliament** has elected Katerina **Sakellaropoulou** as its **first female president in the history**. She is a senior judge with an expertise in environmental and constitutional law.
- 261 MPs out of the 300 voted for 63-year-old Katerina to become the ceremonial head of the country.

January 26

1. Who was appointed as the head of future EU diplomatic mission?

Answer: Joao Vale de Almeida

Explanation:

- **Portuguese diplomat Joao Vale de Almeida** was appointed as the **head of future EU diplomatic mission** to the UK after Brexit on 24 January. The UK's exit was scheduled for 31 January 2020.
- He has experience as the European union's U.S. ambassador in 2010-2014.

Related keys :

- Joao Vale de Almeida is an experienced EU diplomat.
- Prior to his appointment to London, he was the EU ambassador to the United Nations.

January 29

1. Who took over as Chief Executive Officer of the Indian Banks Association?

Answer: Sunil Mehta

Explanation:

- **Sunil Mehta** took over as **Chief Executive Officer of the Indian Banks Association**. He succeeds **V G Kannan**, who stepped down on December

31, 2019. Sunil Mehta was heading **Punjab National Bank**, PNB as an MD & CEO.

- While serving PNB, Mehta was also appointed as a chairman of IBA in 2018-19.

Related News

- Indian Banks Association Founded: 26 September 1946
- Indian Banks Association Headquarters location: Mumbai

January 30

1. Which country appointed a new Prime Minister replacing Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani?

Answer: Qatar

Explanation:

- **Qatar** appointed a new Prime Minister replacing **Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani**.
- Quoting an Emiri order, the State News Agency reported that Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdelaziz Al Thani has been named as the new Prime Minister.

Related Keys

- Qatar Capital: Doha
- Qatar Currency: **Qatari riyal**

BANKING NEWS

January 2

1. Which bank has launched a mobile app, MANI to help visually challenged people to identify denomination of currency notes?

Answer: Reserve Bank

Explanation:

- **Reserve Bank of India**, RBI has launched a mobile app, **MANI**, Mobile Aided Note Identifier, to help visually challenged people to identify denomination of currency notes.
- The app, which is available both on Android and iOS operating systems, was launched by **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das** in Mumbai

Related Keys

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- Reserve Bank of India Established - 1 April 1935
- Reserve Bank of India Governor - Shaktikanta Das

January 4

1. Which bank announced that Foreign Exchange Reserves of India has swelled by 2.52 billion USD?

Answer: RBI

Explanation:

- **RBI** announced that **Foreign Exchange Reserves of India** has swelled by **2.52 billion USD** in the week that ended on December 27, 2019. The Central Bank also said that the country's special drawing rights with the IMF (International Monetary Fund) dipped by 2 million USD and the reserve position increased by 58 million USD.
- Currently, India SDR with the IMF is 1.4441 billion USD and the reserve is 3.7 billion USD.

Related Keys

- RBI Founder: British Raj
- RBI Founded: 1 April 1935

January 5

1. Which raised 1.3 billion transactions in December at National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI)?

Answer: Unified Payments Interface

Explanation:

- **Unified Payments Interface** (UPI) raised 1.3 billion transactions in December **at National Payments Corp. of India**(NPCI).
- These transactions were 7% higher than in October and 111% higher on a year-on-year basis, the data showed.
- The transactions were worth ₹ 2.02 trillion in December compared to ₹ 1.89 trillion a month ago. Currently, 143 banks are live on UPI

Related Keys:

- UPI allows users to transfer money any time across multiple bank accounts without revealing details of one's bank account to the other party.

January 11

1. Which Bank estimated a 5% growth rate in fiscal 2019-2020 for India?

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Answer: World Bank

Explanation:

- The **World Bank** estimated a **5% growth** rate in fiscal 2019-2020 for **India**. The World Bank's update is in line with the **Reserve Bank of India's** (RBI) October policy estimate in which it slashed the Indian economy's expected growth to 5% for the fiscal year 2019-2020.
- It also estimated the world economic growth at **2.5% in FY20**

Related Keys

- The report estimated that weakness in credit from non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) will linger during the fiscal, but the rate might recover to 5.8% in the next fiscal.

January 19

1. Which company planned to invest nearly \$1 billion in India over the next five years?

Answer: Global payments company Mastercard

Explanation:

- **Global payments company Mastercard** planned to **invest nearly \$1 billion in India over the next five years**. The proposed investment will be made over five years in our India operations includes an R&D facility at Pune and another center at Vadodara.
- The facilities catered to the company's global operations, of which Vadodara provided the backend multiple payment support.

Related Keys:

- Mastercard Founded : 1979; 41 years ago (as Mastercard)
- Headquarters : Mastercard International Global Headquarters, Purchase, New York U.S.

January 23

1. Which bank has cancelled the Certificate of Authorization (CoA) of Vodafone m-pesa on account of voluntary surrender of authorization?

Answer: Reserve Bank of India

Explanation:

- The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) said that it has cancelled the **Certificate of Authorisation** (CoA) of Vodafone m-pesa on account of voluntary surrender of authorization.

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- Following the cancellation of the CoA, the company cannot transact the business of issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments.

Related Keys

- The Reserve Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai
- The Reserve Bank of India Founded: 1 April 1935

January 26

1. Which bank introduced Voluntary Retention Route scheme?

Answer: RBI

Explanation:

- On January 24, 2020, based on the feedback received from the **Voluntary Retention Route scheme** introduced by the **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) in 2009, the central bank (RBI) in consultation with the govt. made certain amendments in the scheme to increase its operational flexibility.
- As per the amendments, the **investment limit under VRR** has now been increased to Rs 1,50,000 crores (1.5 lakh crores) from earlier Rs. 75,000 crores.

Related keys:

- For fresh allotment, the investment limit will be Rs. 90,639 crores and will be allotted under VRR- combined category.
- The limits of investment will also be available 'on tap' and allotted on 'first come, first served' basis.
- Until the limits are fully allotted, the tap will remain opened.



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