

December 2019

BOLT

Monthly Current Affairs



CLICK HERE TO PREPARE FOR

IBPS, SSC, SBI, RAILWAYS & RBI EXAMS IN ONE PLACE

Bolt is a series of GK Summary ebooks by [Oliveboard](#) for quick revision

Table of Contents

Banking	3
Economy	6
National	9
International	13
State	15
Sports	17
Agreements	20
Schemes	25
Appointments	26
Awards	31
Ranks & Reports	33
Important Days	35
Summit & Conferences	38
Science & Technology	40
Defence	41
Books & Authors	43
Miscellaneous	43
Obituary	44
Person in news	46
Insurance	48
India & World	48
Environment	49
Apps & Portals	49
Acquisitions & Mergers	49

Banking

1. RBL Bank to raise ₹826 cr. from 5 investors

RBL Bank has decided to raise ₹826 cr equity capital from 5 investors to boost its capital base. Bank to issue 24.24 mn shares to these investors at ₹340.7 apiece. NPA (gross advances) for bank went up from 1.4% in September 2018 to 2.6% in September 2019. RBL CEO & MD: Vishwavir Ahuja; HQ: Mumbai

2. RBI imposes ₹1.50-cr penalty on Corporation Bank

RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹1.50 Cr on Corporation Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions. The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in the RBI under the provisions of Sec 47 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Corporation Bank: Tagline-Prosperity for all; CEO – PV Bharathi.

3. Nearly 78% PMC bank depositors allowed to withdraw entire balance: Sitharaman

FM Nirmala Sitharaman stated that nearly 78% depositors of Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank have been allowed to withdraw their entire deposits. The steps are being taken to seize properties of promoters of PMC Bank & to auction such properties. The ceiling of withdrawal from the bank is ₹ 50,000.

4. Asian Development Bank to advance Tamil Nadu USD 206 million for civic infrastructure

ADB has agreed to advance a loan of US \$206 million to develop water supply and sewerage infrastructure in Tiruchi and other cities in Tamil Nadu & strengthen the capacities of urban local bodies (ULBs) for improved service delivery in the state. ADB was founded in the year- 1966.

5. Payments banks may convert to a small finance bank after 5 years of business

Payments banks can apply for conversion into small finance banks (SFBs) after five years of operation. According to the guidelines both banks should come under the non-operating financial holding company (NOFHC) structure. Minimum paid-up capital requirement for SFBs is ₹200 crore.

6. RBI imposes Rs 25 lakh fine on Andhra Bank for violating KYC, AML norms

The Reserve Bank of India imposed a fine of Rs 25 lakh on Andhra Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions issued on KYC and anti-money laundering. The penalty has been imposed under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. J Packirisamy is MD & CEO of Andhra Bank.

7. ManipalCigna Health Insurance launches 'Super Top Up' Plan

ManipalCigna announced the launch of 'ManipalCigna Super Top Up' health insurance plan. It will provide a health cover upto Rs 30 lakh of sum insured. It covers both Allopathic and AYUSH in-patient treatments up to sum insured. Prasun Sikdar, MD & CEO, ManipalCigna Health Insurance Company.

8. NEFT transactions to be available 24x7 from 16 December

According to RBI, round-the-clock transactions will be allowed under the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) system from December 16. It will be available on all days of the year, including holidays. NEFT is used for fund transfers of up to ₹2 lakh. NEFT transactions are settled in hourly batches.

9. RBL Bank raises ₹2,025 crore via QIP

RBL Bank raised ₹2,025 crore through a qualified institutional placement (QIP) to boost its capital position from a host of domestic and foreign institutional investors in order to increase the bank's total capital adequacy ratio to 15.3%. RBL Bank HQ: Mumbai

10. IEPFA signs MOU with Bank of Baroda for Investor Awareness

Bank of Baroda signed a MoU with Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) to initiate awareness and information among investors who often fall prey to tempting offers for investments and Ponzi scheme due to lack of communication. Manoj Pandey, CEO IEPFA.

11. SBI announces reduction in one-year MCLR by 10 basis points

State Bank of India has announced the reduction in its marginal cost of fund-based lending rate (MCLR) by 10 basis points across all one-year products. It will be effective from Dec 10th. This is the 8th consecutive cut in MCLR by the lender this fiscal. The new one-year MCLR has been cut to 7.9% from 8%.

12. Mastercard ties up with Federal Bank for identity check security for digital transactions

Global payments technology company, Mastercard tied up with Federal Bank to offer identity check to the bank's cardholders. Mastercard Identity Check is a global authentication program that uses the latest authentication standards of EMV 3-D Secure. It aims to improve the authentication experience of cardholders.

13. Cabinet clears amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

The cabinet approved amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to remove difficulties being faced during insolvency resolution process. It also lowered the rating threshold for public sector banks to purchase high-rated pooled assets to BBB+. Cabinet lowered the limit to BBB+ from AA.

14. IRDAI forms group to study loss prevention

A 10-member working group has been constituted by the IRDAI to suggest segment-wise ways and means improve loss prevention and loss minimization in the general insurance industry. IRDAI Member (Non-Life) T. L. Alamelu will chair the group. Three months are given to the group to submit its report.

15. Karnataka Bank launches KBL Xpress Car Loan

Karnataka Bank as part of its digital initiative has launched KBL Xpress Car Loan, a digitized version of Car Loan Finance. Introduction of KBL Xpress Car Loan allows in-principle sanctions under 20 minutes at customers choice of place and time. Karnataka Bank CEO-Mahabaleshwara M S

16. BRICS' NDB pledges \$100 million to NIIF's Fund of Funds

New Development Bank (NDB), earlier known as the BRICS Development Bank, has committed \$100 million to India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund's (NIIF) Fund of Funds. NDB Founded by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. NDB was launched with initial authorized capital of \$100 bn.

17. PhonePe crosses 5 bn transactions, grew 5 times in one year

Digital payments platform PhonePe announced that it has crossed 5 billion transactions on its app. It crossed the one-billion transaction milestone in November last year. The digital payments platform has over 175 million registered users in the country. Sameer Nigam, Founder and CEO, PhonePe.

18. Paytm now only app offering NEFT, IMPS, UPI, wallet & card payments

With the RBI making online NEFT transfers 24/7 on all days including weekends and holidays from Monday, India's digital payment leader Paytm has become the only payments app offering three ways to pay 24x7 seamlessly. Paytm users can pay up to ₹10 lakh per transaction using NEFT.

19. AIIB announces \$210 million loan for irrigation & solar energy projects in India

AIIB announced a total loan of \$210 million for irrigation & solar energy projects in India. AIIB will lend \$145 million to improve irrigation services and strengthen flood risk management in West Bengal & \$65 million for 250 MW solar project in Rajasthan. India is the second-largest shareholder of the AIIB.

20. RBI to buy and sell govt bonds worth Rs 10,000 crore

RBI is to purchase & sell govt securities worth Rs 10,000 Cr under Open Market Operation (OMO). Such exercises are done when the proceeds from sale of short-term securities are used to buy long-term govt securities in a bid to bring down interest rates on long-term securities.

21. RBI caps lending on peer-to-peer lending platforms at ₹50 lakh

To protect consumers interest RBI said that on a P2P platform the permissible exposure of a lender to all borrowers should not exceed ₹50 lakh at any given point of time. Lender investing more than ₹10

lakh across P2P platforms will produce a certificate. Fund transfer under P2P happens through an escrow account.

22. Ashok Leyland joins hands with Yes Bank for vehicle financing

Ashok Leyland has inked a pact with Yes Bank for vehicle finance for a period of two years. It will help the company design customised financial solution and the combined pan-India reach will help customers to choose the financial solution they desire. Ashok Leyland is a Hinduja group flagship firm.

23. RBI launches new prepaid payment instrument for digital transactions

RBI introduced a new semi-closed prepaid payment instrument (PPI) which can be used for transaction of goods and services up to a limit of Rs 10,000. Such PPIs will be issued by bank & non-bank PPI issuers after obtaining minimum details of the PPI holder. The loading facility will be linked only from a bank account.

24. Allahabad Bank, IOB, UCO to get ₹8,655 crore for preferential allotment

GOI has approved releasing ₹8655 Cr to 3 PSBs - Allahabad Bank (₹2153 Cr), Indian Overseas Bank (₹4630 Cr) and UCO Bank (₹2142 CR) for preferential allotment of shares. All these three banks are currently under the RBI's PCA framework. IOB CEO - Karnam Sekar.

25. SBI to launch OTP-based ATM cash withdrawal from January 1

State Bank of India has introduced a one-time password (OTP)-based cash withdrawal system for its ATMs. This facility will be available for transactions above Rs 10,000 between 8 pm and 8 am. It will be applicable from January 1, 2020. It has not been developed in National Financial Switch.

26. RBI released the 20th issue of the Financial Stability Report

RBI has released the 20th issue of the FSR. It says that the global economy confronted a number of uncertainties that leads to significant deceleration in growth. It also discusses issues relating to the development and regulation of the financial sector. RBI had forecasted India's GDP as 5% on December.

27. RBI directs large co-op banks to report exposures above Rs 5 Cr

RBI has directed large cooperative banks to report all exposures of 5 Cr and more to the Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC). UCBs will be required to submit CRILC report on quarterly basis with effect from December 31, 2019. The move is aimed at early detection of financial distress.

28. Finance Minister launches 'eBkay' auction platform for assets attached by banks

Nirmala Sitharaman launched eBkay, an e-auction platform to enable online auction of attached assets by banks. eBkay platform with property search features & navigational links, provides single-window access to information on properties up for e-auction. 35,000 properties already registered on eBkay.

Policy/Exchange rate & Reserve ratio	Percentage
Repo rate	5.15%
Reverse Repo rate	4.90%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate	5.40%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4 %
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.50%
Bank Rate	5.40%

Economy

1. SEBI limits every issuer's exposure to 15% weight of debt ETF index

SEBI limited every issuer's exposure to 15% weight of the debt ETF index, a minimum 8 issuers & only investment grade papers. Debt ETF index will be constructed & thereafter, the investment portfolio will be created tracking the index basket of debt papers. Rules not applicable to ETFs based on gov security index

2. GDP growth slips to 4.5% in September quarter

Economy posted its weakest growth in more than 6 years as manufacturing activity contracted by 1% in the Sept quarter. GDP rose 4.5% from a year ago, down from 5 % in the previous quarter, as per NSO data. Also nominal GDP growth slipped to 6.1%. Agriculture grew at 2.1%.

3. Crisil slashes FY20 growth forecast to 5.1%

Crisil has cut the growth forecast for the current FY to 5.1% from 6.3%. The agency stated that the growth in the 2nd half of 2019-20 will go up to 5.5%, up from 4.75% in the 1st half. Crisil's revision is among the lowest after Nomura's 4.7% forecast. RBI revised the GDP growth rate for the current FY to 6.1%.

4. IRDAI approves True North's stake purchase in Max Bupa Health Insurance from Max India

Max India Limited announced that the Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has approved divestment of its 51% stake in Max Bupa Health Insurance Company Pvt. Ltd. (Max Bupa), to the leading Private Equity firm True North1 .

5. PSBs disburse ₹4.91 trillion loans in October-November

According to FM Public sector banks have disbursed loans of ₹2.39 trillion in Nov. to non-bank lenders, large & small businesses, as well as farmers, & ₹2.52 trillion in Oct. Corporate houses borrowed the most during Oct-Nov followed by MSMEs & farm loans.

6. India's services PMI improves in November to 52.7

Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) improved to in November to 52.7 which is encouraging. In October, the measure was 49.2. A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while one below that threshold indicates contraction. Manufacturing PMI too showed an improvement in November to 51.2.

7. HDFC ERGO launches my:health Woman Suraksha - A special health insurance for women

HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company, announced the launch of **The my:health Woman Suraksha** policy. It is specially designed to cover women against numerous illnesses and contingencies they may face during their lifetime. Ritesh Kumar, MD & CEO, HDFC ERGO General Insurance.

9. National Stock Exchange (NSE) launches Nifty Bharat Bond Index series

The National Stock Exchange launched Nifty Bharat Bond Index series, which will track a portfolio of AAA-rated bonds issued by government entities. The first two indices in the series are for April 2023 and April 2030. The unit size will be of ₹1,000. NSE Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Vikram Limaye.

10. Razorpay Recognised As 'Most Innovative Payment Start-Up' At IFTA 2019

Razorpay added 3 more accolades to its bouquet at the India FinTech Awards (IFTA) 2019, organised by India Fintech Forum in association with NPCI. The company won awards for the 'Most Innovative Payment Start-up' and 'Most Innovative Fintech Product'. Razorpay CEO and Co-founder, Harshil Mathur.

11. India's forex reserves cross \$450 billion for the first time

The country's foreign exchange reserves crossed the \$450-billion mark for the first time ever on the back of strong inflows which enabled the central bank to buy dollars from the market, thus checking any sharp appreciation of the rupee. At \$451.7 billion, country's import cover is now over 11 months.

12. RBI tightens norms for ARCs to acquire financial assets

RBI tightened norms for asset reconstruction companies (ARCs), restricting them from buying financial assets from their sponsor firms and lenders on a bilateral basis. However, the regulator has allowed the ARCs to participate in auctions of such assets. Securities Interest (Sarfaesi) Act, 2002 has been amended.

13. ZestMoney partners with Xiaomi to offer small ticket loans

ZestMoney, an EMI financing platform, partnered with smartphone company, Xiaomi, to provide cash loans to Indian customers. MiCredit platform, allows customers to avail instant credit straight into their bank accounts for amounts ranging Rs 7,000- 1 lac. Indian fintech industry to touch \$31 billion in 2020: NITI Aayog

14. India's real GDP growth in FY20 to come below 5%: IHS Markit

India's real GDP growth in 2019-20 fiscal is expected to be slightly below 5% as the impact of stimulus measures will take time to filter through to the economy, IHS Markit has said. For the 1st half of 2019-20 fiscal, GDP growth slowed to a pace of 4.8%. Latest GDP data for July-September quarter is 4.5%.

15. NSE launches interest rate options on 10-yr govt bonds

NSE launched interest rate options will provide institutional investors the ability to manage risk through a non-linear product. Interest rate options are based on the underlying ten-year government bonds, which are 7.26% 2029 bond and 6.45% 2029 bond. National Stock Exchange MD & CEO- Vikram Limaye.

16. ADB trims India's GDP growth forecast to 5.1% in FY20

ADB trimmed India's GDP growth in 2019-20 to 5.1% saying consumption was affected by slow job growth & rural distress aggravated by poor harvest. In September, ADB forecast India's GDP to grow 6.5 per cent in 2019-20 & 7.2 per cent in the year thereafter. ADB is headquartered at Manila, Philippines.

17. HDFC becomes the 5th firm to cross Rs 4 lakh crore in market cap

Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) became the 5th company to cross Rs 4 lakh crore in market capitalisation. Reliance Industries retained its top slot with a market cap of Rs 9.93 lakh crore followed by TCS, HDFC Bank and Hindustan Unilever. HDB Financial Services is to launch its IPO by end of 2019-20.

18. India's economy to grow at 4.3% in Q4 2019: Nomura

India's economy is expected to grow at 4.3% in Q4 of 2019 amid concerns over crisis in the NBFC sector, according to Nomura. It expects 4.9% GDP growth in 2019, down from an earlier estimate of 5.3%, and 5.5% in 2020 against an earlier projection of 6.3%. In 2021, it sees India's economic growth at 6.5 percent.

19. Edelweiss launches maiden corporate bond ETF, aims to raise Rs 15,000 cr

Edelweiss Asset Management Company has launched the Bharat Bond ETF. Through the bond, the government seeks to mop up Rs 15,000 crore. Investors can subscribe to the ETF with a minimum unit size of Rs 1,000. DIPAM has mandated the Company to design & manage Bharat Bond ETF

20. Moody's cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 5.6% for 2019

Moody's Investors lowered 2019 GDP growth forecast for India to 5.6% as slow employment growth weighs on consumption. It expects economic growth to pick up in 2020 & 2021 to 6.6% & 6.7% respectively but sees the pace of growth remaining lower than past. Moody's GDP growth forecast for 2018 was 7.4 percent.

21. First time digital 7th Economic Census: to be completed by March 2020

The 7th Economic Census, which is being organized by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, across whole over India through common services centres (CSCs), is expected to be completed by March 2020. The survey was launched in New Delhi. CSC e-Governance Service India CEO- Dinesh Tyagi.

22. CBDT extends advance tax payment deadline for northeastern region to Dec 31

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has extended the date for payment of third installment of Advance Tax for financial year 2019-20 to 31st of this month for the North Eastern Region. Earlier, the deadline was 15th of December.

23. Amendments approved in interest subvention scheme for MSMEs

Nitin Gadkari approved changes in the Interest Subvention Scheme for MSMEs. The last date of submission of claims for half-yearly period ended March 31 has now been extended till December 31, 2019. Trading activities without UAN have been made eligible. UAN-Udyog Aadhar Number.

24. ADB & India sign \$250 million loan to expand energy efficiency investments in India

ADB & India signed a \$250 mn loan to Energy Efficiency Services Limited to expand energy efficiency investments in India that will benefit agricultural, residential & institutional consumers. In addition, \$46 mn financing will be provided from the CTF. Clean Technology Fund (CTF)-to be administered by ADB.

25. CPPIB to invest \$225 million in Bain, Piramal-led India Resurgence Fund

Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, through its wholly owned subsidiary, CPPIB Credit Investments has committed to invest \$225 million in the India Resurgence Fund platform, set up by Piramal Enterprises Ltd and Bain Capital Credit. Earlier, IFC had also committed to invest \$100 mn. in the fund.

26. GST Council fixes 28% uniform tax rate for lottery

The Goods and Services Tax or GST Council has fixed a uniform tax rate of 28 per cent on both state-run and private lottery. It also decided to rationalise the GST rate on woven and non-woven bags to 18 per cent. 38th GST Council chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

27. Fitch lowers India GDP growth to 4.6% in FY20

Fitch Ratings has cut India's GDP growth forecast for FY 20 to 4.6% on a deterioration in business & consumer confidence. It stated that growth will recover to 5.6% in FY21 & 6.5% in the following year with support from easing monetary & fiscal policy. Moody's slashed India GDP forecast to 4.9% for FY 20.

28. West Africa renames CFA franc but keeps it pegged to euro

West Africa's monetary union agreed with France to rename its CFA franc the Eco and cut some of the financial links with Paris that have underpinned the region's common currency since its creation after World War II. CFA is used in 14 African countries. The CFA franc was introduced in the year 1945.

29. No Merchant Discount Rate on transactions through RuPay, UPI platforms from 1 January 2020

No MDR will be applicable on transactions through RuPay & UPI platforms beginning 1 January 2020. All companies with a turnover of 50 Cr or more will be mandated to provide the facility of payment through RuPay Debit card & UPI QR code to their customers. MDR is expressed in percentage of the transaction amount.

30. India likely to surpass Germany to become the fourth-largest economy in 2026: Report

India will overtake Germany to become 4th-largest economy in the world by the year 2026, according to a report by the UK-based Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR). India is all set to overtake Japan to become the 3rd-largest economy by 2034. The report is titled as 'World Economic League Table 2020'.

Organization/Parameters	Rate/Figures
CRISIL (GDP)	5.1% (FY 2019-20)
HIS Markit (GDP)	Below 5% (FY 2019-20)
ADB (GDP)	5.1% (FY 2019-20)
Nomura (GDP – Q4)	4.3% (FY 2019-20)
Moody's (GDP)	5.6% (CY 2019), 6.6% (CY 2020), 6.7% (CY 2021)
GST on Private Lottery	28%
Fitch (GDP)	4.6% (FY 2020)

National

1. Aditya Birla Finance becomes 1st NBFC to list commercial paper on bourses

Aditya Birla Finance became 1st company to list its commercial papers borrowing of Rs 100 crore on the bourses. It listed its CPs on NSE with a value date of November 28, 2019 and maturity date on February 7, 2020 on BSE and NSE Aditya Birla Finance HQ: Mumbai; Founded: 1991

2. Govt launches drive to enroll 1 cr beneficiaries- PM-SYM & NPS-Traders

Government has launched a drive to enroll 1 crore beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) & National Pension Scheme for Traders & Self-Employed Persons (NPS-Traders) by March 2019. Labour and Employment Minister: Santosh Kumar Gangwar

3. India becomes first country to make entire Haj process digital

India has become the 1st country to make the entire process for pilgrims going on Haj completely digital. e-visa, Haj mobile app, e-MASIHA health facility, e-luggage pre-tagging are providing info regarding accommodation & transportation in Mecca & Madina. Minority Affairs Minister - Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi.

4. India's first maritime museum coming up at Lothal in Gujarat

India has decided to establish a National Maritime Heritage Museum at Lothal. The museum will be an independent research centre of underwater archaeology for reconstruction of maritime history, archaeology of boat building and materials traded. Lothal is a Harappan site on the Saurashtra coast in Gujarat.

5. Lok Sabha passes Bill to effect corporate tax reduction

LS passed a Bill to replace an Ordinance for effecting reduction of corporate tax rates. It will amend Income Tax Act, 1961 & Finance (No.2) Act. The tax for existing comp has reduced to 22% & 15% for new manufacturing firms incorporated after Oct 1, 2019. Manufacturing firms should start operations before Mar 31, 2023.

6. VP Venkaiah Naidu launches 'Bharatiya Poshan Anthem'

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched the "Bharatiya Poshan Anthem" which aims at taking the message of making India malnutrition-free by 2022 to all corners of the country. The anthem was conceptualized by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Penned by lyricist Prasoon Joshi & sung by Shankar Mahadevan.

7. EC to implement Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System

The Election Commission will implement Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System. It will be implemented through an online portal to facilitate tracking of status of application by applicants. Sunil Arora is the current 23rd Chief Election Commissioner.

8. Cabinet approves launch of Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)

The Cabinet approved the launch of Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund or ETF. ETFs invest in a basket of securities representing an index, security or commodity and are traded on the stock exchange like any security listed on the exchange. It would be the first corporate bond ETF in the country.

9. Union Cabinet approves introduction of Personal Data Protection Bill in Parliament

Cabinet approved the introduction of the Personal Data Protection Bill in Parliament. It deals with the broad guidelines on the collection, storage, & processing of personal data, the consent of individuals, penalties & compensation, & a code of conduct. Bill prepared by committee headed by Justice B.N. Srikrishna.

10. Nation pays homage to Dr BR Ambedkar on his 64th Mahaparinirvan Diwas

Nation paid homage to Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar on his 64th Mahaparinirvan Diwas. Eminent dignitaries & Parliamentarians offered tributes to the Architect of the Indian Constitution. Dr Ambedkar's death anniversary known as Mahaparinirvan Divas in India. Bhimrao Ambedkar was born on 14 April 1891 in Madhya Pradesh.

11. Aberdeen in Andaman and Nicobar Islands adjudged best police station in Country

Aberdeen Police station in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands ranks first in the list of the best-performing police stations in the country while dealing with a property offence, a crime against women and weaker sections. Balasinor police station in Gujarat secured the second rank.

12. First time mandatory condition of Aadhaar seeding for PM Kisan scheme benefits

Govt has made Aadhaar seeding mandatory for the 4th tranche that to be transferred under the PM Kisan scheme which gives an income support of 6000 Rs per year. This will be the 1st time that the govt is insisting on mandatory condition of Aadhaar seeding. Fund release is expected to inject 10,000 Cr into the economy.

13. Centre to include 3 Odisha airports-Jeypore, Rourkela and Utkela-under UDAN

The Centre has agreed to include three airports in Odisha- Jeypore, Rourkela and Utkela under the regional connectivity scheme. The decision was taken at a meeting b/w Civil Aviation Secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola & Odisha's Chief Secretary A.K Tripathy. Airports will be developed under UDAN-4(Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik).

14. Walmart launches training programme for MSMEs

Walmart launches a programme which aims to train 50,000 entrepreneurs from the MSME sector. Under the 'Walmart Vriddhi Supplier Development Programme', MSMEs will receive in-person training, expert advice, peers and mentors in their local communities. Walmart Vriddhi has partnered with Swasti for the initiative.

15. Lok Sabha passes Citizenship Amendment Bill 2019

Citizenship Amendment Bill 2019 seeks to grant citizenship to Hindus, Jains, Parsis, Buddhists and Christians who migrated to India till the end of the year 2014 from countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, due to reasons like persecutions. Overseas Citizen of India provisions are also amended.

16. FCI raises ₹8,000 crore on BSE BOND platform

Food Corporation of India (FCI) raised ₹8,000 crore through issue of bonds on private placement basis on BSE's electronic book mechanism platform. In total, 247 bids for ₹20,071.2 crore were received on BSE BOND Platform. BSE CEO and MD -Ashishkumar Chauhan

17. NHAI to set up "InvITs" to monetize highway assets

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to NHAI to set up an infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) to monetize highway assets. This will enable NHAI to monetize completed national highways that have a toll collection track record of at least one year. NHAI Chairman- Sukhbir Singh Sandhu.

18. Govt to sell 100% stake in Air India, says Civil Aviation Minister

Govt decided to sell its entire 100% stake in Air India under the proposed disinvestment process. Airports Authority of India has embarked upon a capital investment of over 25,000 Cr in next 5 yrs for the up gradation & modernisation of various airports.

19. RS passes International Financial Services Bill, 2019

The Rajya Sabha passed the International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) Authority Bill. It will set up a world class unified regulator for international financial services combining powers and functions of RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA. The authority will consist of 9 members appointed by GOI.

20. R. K. Singh Inaugurated the 29th National Energy Conservation day and Presented the Awards

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) organised the 29th National Energy Conservation Awards in New Delhi. R. K. Singh, Minister of State for Power & New & Renewable Energy and Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship presented the awards. National Energy Conservation day is observed on 14th December.

21. Prime Minister chairs first meeting of National Ganga Council

PM Narendra Modi chaired the first meeting of the National Ganga Council in Kanpur, UP. The Council has been given overall responsibility for superintendence of pollution prevention and rejuvenation of River Ganga Basin, including Ganga and its tributaries. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Jal Shakti.

22. Ministry of Coal to establish Sustainable Development Cell for Environmental Mitigation Measures

The Ministry of Coal has decided to establish a 'Sustainable Development Cell' in order to promote environmentally sustainable coal mining in the country and address environmental concerns during the decommissioning or closure of mines. In India approx. 2,550 sq Km areas is under different coal mines

23. Reliance Industries topples IOC to become India's largest company

Boosted by its consumer-facing businesses like organised retail and telecom, Mukesh Ambani-led conglomerate Reliance Industries ended state-owned Indian Oil Corporation's (IOC) 10-year reign as India's largest company, topping the Fortune India 500 list. State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation was ranked third.

24. Mandatory to link PAN-Aadhaar by 31 December: I-T Dept

It is mandatory to link PAN with Aadhaar by the end of 2019, the IT Dept said in a public message. Earlier, the deadline for this linkage was September 30. Aadhaar is issued by Unique Identification Authority of India & PAN is issued by IT department.

The CBDT frames policy for the Income Tax Department.

25. Fifth EAC meeting of 15th Finance Commission held in New Delhi

5th meeting of the Economic Advisory Council of the 15th Finance Commission was held in New Delhi. Preparation of the report for 2021-26 period was discussed. Recently, the 15th Finance Commission submitted its report for the period 2020-21 to President.

Finance Commission Chairman - NK Singh.

26. NPCI sets up subsidiary for exporting UPI to international markets

NPCI has setup a subsidiary to export the UPI for governments and central banks interested in implementing similar instant fund transfer in their countries. The subsidiary will also look at various business propositions exporting the payment solution.

UPI was launched in April 2016.

27. Ravi Shankar Prasad launches National Broadband Mission

Vision of the National Broadband Mission is to fast track growth of digital communications infrastructure, bridge the digital divide, facilitate digital empowerment & inclusion and provide affordable and universal Broadband access to all villages by 2022.

NBM also plans to develop a Broadband Readiness Index (BRI).

28. Govt approves ₹436 crore for digital upskilling of IT workforce

MeitY will partner with NASSCOM to create an online platform to upskill IT professionals to increase their employability. The programme is called Future Skills PRIME (Programme for Reskilling Upskilling of IT Manpower for Employability).

The government will release ₹436 crore for this purpose.

29. PM Modi addressed ASSOCHAM Annual Conference

Modi addressed the annual general meeting of Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India in New Delhi. The theme of the event was 'New India Aspiring for a USD 5 trillion economy'. Event was organised on the completion of 100 years of ASSOCHAM.

ASSOCHAM-Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India.

30. Amazon to host SMBhav Conclave

Amazon India has conceptualized SMBhav, a first-of-its-kind mega summit for Small and Medium Businesses at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi on January 2020. Industry experts, solution providers and Amazon leadership are expected to share their views.

Ease of business ideas for SMBs will also be shared.

31. First Annual Meet of State Nodal Agencies for Ecoclub programme conducted

First annual Meet of the State Nodal Agencies implementing the 'Ecoclub' programme of the Ministry of the Environment, Forest & Climate Change organized by the Ministry's Environment Education Division, along with GEER Foundation, Gujarat was held Gujarat.

It aims to give knowledge to school children about environment.

32. Cabinet approves Atal Bhujal Yojana with total outlay of Rs. 6000 Crore

Cabinet has approved Atal Bhujal Yojana, a Central Sector Scheme with total outlay of ₹ 6000 Cr. It will be implemented over a period of 5 years in identified areas in Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh.

Atal Bhujal Yojana has launched in New Delhi.

33. Urban India declared Open defecation free

Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban has achieved the target of creating Urban India Open Defecation Free. Till date, 819 cities have certified ODF+ & 312 cities have certified ODF++. Housing & Urban Affairs Ministry partnered with Google to map all public toilets.

Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs- Hardeep Singh Puri.

34. Good Governance Index launched

Minister of State for Public Grievances and Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh launched Good Governance Index in New Delhi on the occasion of Good Governance Day on 25th December. The Day is observed on the birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

TN topped among the states; Puducherry is the best governed UT.

35. NITI Aayog to launch SDG India Index & Dashboard 2019-20

NITI Aayog will launch the second edition of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index and Dashboard 2019-20 on 30 December 2019. It was the first tool developed by any large country to monitor progress towards achieving SDGs at sub-national level.

The first edition of SDG Index was launched in December 2018.

36. FSSAI & NASVI organises street food festival

The 11th National Street Food Festival jointly organized by National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) & food regulator FSSAI begun in New Delhi. It will be held from December 25th- 29th. The theme of this year's festival is 'healthier diets'.

FSSAI also organised 2nd edition of 'National Eat Right Mela'.

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

India is all set to cross the 100GW renewable energy capacity mark in 2020. India's installed renewable energy generation capacity touched 86GW by November-end. Around 30GW renewable capacity including 18GW solar & 10GW wind is under implementation.

PM-KUSUM & solar rooftop phase-2 was introduced earlier in 2019.

38. e-BCAS Project launched to digitise employee movement process at airports

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched Biometric enabled Centralised Access Control System (CACS) & 'e-BCAS (Bureau of Civil Aviation Security) Project Training Module. CACS project is aimed to digitize the employee movement process at the airports.

Main Aim-enhance security & ease of doing business at airports.

39. PAN-Aadhaar linking deadline extended till March 2020

The last date for the mandatory linking of the PAN card with Aadhaar has been extended till March 2020. The earlier deadline was December 31. This is the eighth time that the CBDT has extended the deadline for individuals to link their PAN with Aadhaar.

PAN is a 10-digit unique identification alphanumeric number.

International

1. Climate Emergency COP25: New platform linking oceans and climate launched in Madrid

A new international initiative at the 25th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP25) currently underway in Madrid was launched namely, Platform of Science-based Ocean Solutions. It aims to integrate sensible ocean-based solutions into climate targets

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

2. Japan unveils \$120 billion fiscal package to shore up growth

Japan unveiled a \$120 billion fiscal package to support stalling growth in the world's third-largest economy amid offshore risks and as policy-makers look to sustain activity beyond the 2020 Tokyo Olympics investment spurt.

Japan, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

3. Grab launches Asia's first numberless card in Singapore

Grab, SE-Asia's leading everyday super app, launched GrabPay Card, Asia's 1st numberless card offering users card security, access to an expanded rewards ecosystem & hassle-free Grab payments integration in order to bring cashless convenience to millions

GrabPay Card is powered by Mastercard

4. India set to hand over Russian origin submarine to Myanmar

In a big boost to bilateral defence cooperation, Myanmar is commissioning its 1st-ever submarine after it is formally handed over by India. Transfer of INS Sindhuvir is part of India's continuing policy to counter China's strategic inroads into Myanmar.

INS Sindhuvir is a Russian origin submarine.

5. Zozibini Tunzi-Crowned Miss Universe 2019

Zozibini Tunzi has crowned Miss Universe 2019 in Atlanta, US. She is the third woman from South Africa to win the Miss Universe title. Madison Anderson from Puerto Rico was announced as the first runner-up & Mexico's Sofia Aragon was the second runner-up.

She is also an activist & fights against gender-based violence.

6. ADB to invest \$2 billion in energy sector over next three years: Pakistan

Pakistan said that the ADB plans to invest USD 2 billion in the energy sector in the country during the next three years. It was also agreed that all efforts by both sides will be made to ensure maximum transparency during the execution of 3-year projects.

Pakistan Prime Minister - Imran Khan.

7. World's first liquid hydrogen carrier ship debuts in Japan

World's 1st liquefied hydrogen carrier made its official debut in Japan-a step toward tapping the carbon-free energy potential of the lightest element. It will be used for technology demonstration to establish an international hydrogen energy supply chain.

Kawasaki Heavy Industries is the manufacturer.

8. Poland left out of EU's 2050 climate neutrality target

EU has left Poland out of a 2050 climate neutrality agreement due to the demanding of more funds for economic transition & support for nuclear power. Czech Republic & Hungary dropped their resistance after winning a guarantee from EU.

Polish Prime Minister - Mateusz Morawiecki.

9. India donates solar-powered lamps to Palestinian children

India donated solar powered study lamps supplied by IIT Bombay, to Palestinian elementary school children from a marginalised Bedouin community to spread the principles of self-sufficiency and raise awareness towards the adverse effects of climate change.

Palestine President : Mahmoud Abbas.

10. Apple, Google, Amazon to create common standard for smart home devices

Amazon, Apple and Google announced plans to develop a common technology standard for smart home products. The project "aims to improve the consumer experience of trying to use smart home products that aren't compatible with each other,".

Alexa, Siri, & Google Assistant to speak same smart home language

11. Portugal announces Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize

PM Antonio Costa announced that in order to help perpetuate Mahatma Gandhi's ideals, Portugal will launch a Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize, each year inspired by his different thoughts & quotes. The first edition will be dedicated to animal welfare.

Portugal Capital- Lisbon, Currency- Euro.

12. Cuba to name first Prime Minister in 40 years

Cuba is to resurrect the position of Prime Minister in the next parliamentary session with President Miguel Diaz-Canel nominating a candidate to the post which has remained dormant for more than 40 years. Last Cuban PM was revolutionary hero Fidel Castro.

Cuba Capital- Havana, Currency- Peso.

13. Bill to promote Gandhi's legacy introduced in U.S. House

A bill to promote the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr was introduced in U.S. House. Bill seeks a budgetary allocation of \$150 million for the next five years. The Bill also proposes establishing a Gandhi-King Development Foundation.

The USAID will create the foundation under the Indian laws.

14. After France, Italy approves digital tax on large tech companies

Following in the footsteps of France, Italy has approved a new tax to be levied on large tech companies. A 3% digital tax on some digital revenue of technology companies that make over \$831 million in global revenue, including least \$6 million in Italy.

New Digital Tax of Italy will come into force on 2020 January 1.

15. UN ups 2020 budget, includes funds for war crimes probes

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a USD 3.07-billion operating budget which for the first time includes funding for the investigation of war crimes in Syria & Myanmar. The budget represents a slight increase from 2019's figure of USD 2.9 billion.

United Nations faced severe Financial crisis in October 2019.

16. UAE extends 300 million US dollars of development aid to Jordan

The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) extended 300 million US dollars as development aid to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Thousands of refugees have been pouring into Jordan to escape Syria's civil war. Syria shares the northern border with Jordan.

According to UN, Jordan hosts about 630,000 Syrian refugees.

State

1. Bengal has lowest NPA in SHG portfolio

West Bengal has lowest NPA in the country in the SHG portfolio, which is less than 2%. The state has over 8 lakh SHGs. Under WB State Rural Livelihoods Mission, state is promoting many poverty eradication initiatives in the rural areas

Swasthya Sathi: WB insurance scheme for contractual labours

2. Nagaland CM inaugurates Multimedia Exhibition at World War II museum

Nagaland Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio officially inaugurated the Multimedia Exhibition at World War II museum, Kisama in Nagaland. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting organized a Multimedia Exhibition.

R N Ravi, Nagaland governor.

3. Rajasthan govt will launch farmer welfare fund of Rs 1,000cr

Rajasthan govt to launch farmer welfare fund of Rs 1,000 Cr. Govt will start its much ambitious 'Janta Clinic scheme' in Jaipur & the 'Rthe ajasthan Agricultural Processing', Agriculture Policy and Agricultural Export Policy, 2019 will also be released.

Rajasthan Chief Minister - Ashok Gehlot.

4. Mumbai-Nagpur expressway to be named after Bal Thackeray

Maharashtra government decided to name the upcoming Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway after the Shiv Sena founder-patriarch late Balasaheb Thackeray. Government also decided to infuse an additional ₹3,500 crore share capital into the MNSCE.

MNSCE-Mumbai- Nagpur Super Communication Expressway.

5. Inner Line Permit regime extended to Manipur, Prez Kovind signs order

The Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime has been extended to Manipur. President Ram Nath Kovind signed an order in this regard. Manipur is the fourth state after Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram where the ILP regime has been made applicable earlier.

To visit ILP-regime states, outsiders need to take permission.

6. West Bengal tops in the 100-day work programme for promoting livelihoods

West Bengal has been selected for the 1st prize in 100-Day Work Programme for Promoting Livelihoods. Bankura and Cooch Behar Districts of the state have won the 1st and 2nd positions among districts in the country in implementation of rural job scheme.

Ministry of Rural Development presented the prize.

7. Trakea: A Unique bar-coding software used by Haryana Police

Haryana Police Dept has adopted a unique barcoding software called Trakea. The cases are allocated to the biotechnology experts through automated case allocation. The experts will not know about the details of the case or the names associated with case.

It offers security to the sample collected from the crime scene.

8. First ever Karanji Lake Festival begins

1st-ever Karanji Lake Festival began to spread the message on the importance of waterbodies. The nature park, a prominent tourist destination managed by the Mysuru zoo, was thrown open to the public to be part of the festival which had many attractions.

Karanji Lake is located in the city of Mysore, Karnataka.

9. AP & NMDC ink pact for Kadapa steel plant

The Andhra Pradesh Government signed a MoU with the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) for the supply of iron ore to the Kadapa Steel Plant. AP CM Jaganmohan Reddy will be laying the foundation stone for the Kadapa plant later this month.

NMDC is an Indian state-controlled mineral producer.

10. 'Abhay' to check crimes against women launched

To provide a safer environment, Prakasam district police of Andhra Pradesh have launched 'Abhay'- a pilot emergency drop-home service for stranded women. The police vehicles on receiving a call through the 'Dial 100' service reach at the destination.

AP had already passed Disha Bill & 'Spandana' programme.

11. Rohtang tunnel in Himachal Pradesh named as Atal tunnel

Modi named Rohtang passageway in Himachal Pradesh as Atal Tunnel to mark the 95th birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Strategic Atal tunnel will help in promoting tourism in the region & provide all weather connectivity to remote areas.

Vajpayee took the historic decision of constructing the tunnel.

12. First-ever university for transgenders to come up in UP

India's first university for transgender community will be opened in Fazilnagar block of Kushinagar district in Uttar Pradesh. The university will facilitate its members to study right from class 1 to Post Graduation & even do research and get PhD degree.

Akhil Bhartiya Kinnar Siksha Seva Trust is building it.

13. Losar Festival being celebrated in Ladakh

UT of Ladakh is celebrating Losar Festival on 27th December, to mark the Ladakhi New Year. People of various parts of Ladakh region, celebrate Losar on the 1st Day of Eleventh Month of Tibetan Calendar correlating to a date in the Gregorian calendar.

Losar is observed in all Himalayan states in different times.

14. Mandu festival starts in Madhya Pradesh

In Madhya Pradesh, the 5-day long Mandu festival has been started in Mandu, a world-famous picturesque tourist destination located in Dhar district of the state. The rich classical & traditional folk arts of dance, singing & playing will be part of Mandu.

It is the blend of cultural activities & adventure sports.

15. Odisha government launches e-certificate project

Without visiting government offices, people can now apply for official certificates online under the e-certificate project launched by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for the Revenue and Disaster Management department as part of the 5T model of governance.

The project is the first of its kind in the country.

16. Triple talaq victims to get an annual aid of ₹6,000 in Uttar Pradesh

The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh will give an annual pension of ₹6,000 per year to women who have been given triple talaq by their husbands, till their rehabilitation under PMJVK. They will also get free legal aid from the state government.

PMJVK -Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram.

17. Kerala bagged first rank in the NITI Aygo's composite SDG Index

Kerala achieved the first rank in the NITI Aygo's composite SDG Index with a score of 70, followed by Himachal Pradesh (69). India is the first country in the world with a government-led, sub-national measure of progress on Sustainable Development Goals.

Andhra Pradesh, Telangana & Tamil Nadu- 3rd position (67).

18. 11-day long 'Dhanu Jatra' begins at Bargarh in western Odisha

The famous 11-day long 'Dhanu Jatra', considered as the largest open-air theatre of the world begins at Bargarh, Odisha. It is about the episode of Krishna and Balaram's visit to Mathura to witness the Dhanu ceremony organized by their uncle King Kansa.

Dhanu Jatra got National Festival status in November 2014.

Sports

1. South Asian Games 2019: Tajinderpal, PU Chitra to lead 75-member squad

Asian Games Gold medalist Shot putter Tejinder Pal Singh Toor & 2-time Asian 1500 m champion PU Chitra to lead a 75-member Indian athletics squad in the South Asian Games being held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Nepal President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari

2. Syed Modi International: Wang and Marin clinch titles

Sourabh Verma lost in straight games to Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei in the men's singles final. The women's title went to Rio Olympics gold medallist Carolina Marin, who defeated Thai Phittayaporn Chaiwan 21-12, 21-16.

Syed Modi was eight-time National Badminton champion.

3. Gurpreet Singh, Sunil Kumar clinch gold medals in Senior National C'ships

In wrestling, Gurpreet Singh & Sunil Kumar clinched gold medals at the Senior National Championships in Jalandhar. In 77 Kg category, Gurpreet defeated Sajan Bhanwal (Railways). Sunil defeated Punjab's Prabhal in the 87 Kg category.

Sajan Bhanwal is a 2-time world junior championships medallist.

4. Lewis Hamilton wins 2019 Abu Dhabi GP

Mercedes' driver Lewis Hamilton has won the 2019 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix by defeating Red Bull's Max Verstappen. It was Hamilton's 11th victory out of 21 races. It moves his career total to 84 wins. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc stood at 3rd place in the event.

Lewis Hamilton also won the 2019 Mexican Grand Prix.

5. WADA bans Russia from international sporting events for four years

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) banned Russia for four years, from participation in global sporting events, including the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, after accusing Moscow of falsifying data from an anti-doping laboratory.

Russian flag & national anthem are also banned in the events.

6. 13th South Asian Games concluded in Nepal

13th South Asian Games concluded in Nepal on 10th December. India finished on top with 312 medals comprising 174 gold, 93 silver & 45 bronze. Nepal secured 2nd rank with a total of 206 medals while Sri Lanka is at the third rank with a total of 251 medals.

Nepal & Sri Lanka bagged 51 & 40 gold medals respectively.

7. Top-ranked Barty named WTA Player of the Year

Ashleigh Barty, whose breakout 2019 campaign included a French Open crown and world number one ranking, was named the WTA Player of the Year. Ashleigh Barty is the first Australian to top the women's tennis rankings since Evonne Goolagong Cawley in 1976.

Canada's Andreescu bagged the Newcomer of the Year.

8. Saudi Arabia to host first-ever women's golf tournament in March 2020

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will host its 1st ever golf tournament for women in March 2020 in Jeddah, with 108 professionals set to participate. The Ladies European Tour (LET) event will be staged in collaboration with Golf Saudi and the Saudi Golf Federation.

Saudi Arabia Capital -Riyadh, Currency-Riyal.

9. FIH unveils new world ranking system for 2020

The International Hockey Federation unveiled a new world ranking system for 2020. It will come into effect from January 1. For a better reflection of current performances, the new ranking will be match-based instead of tournament-based calculation.

FIH Headquarters - Lausanne, Switzerland.

10. Sweden beats India 4-0 to win U-17 tournament final

In Women's Football, Sweden wins tri-nation series beating India 4-0 in the final of Under-17 tournament in Mumbai. Sweden scored three goals before half time. Thailand is the third team in the tournament. Elin Svahn of Sweden was adjudged best keeper.

Monica Jusu Bah from Sweden was the highest scorer.

11. Zeena Khitta wins women's national 10m Air Rifle

Himachal's Zeena Khitta stunned West Bengal's Mehuli Ghosh & World No.3 Apurvi Chandela to emerge as the new national champion in the Women's 10 metres Air Rifle event at the ongoing 63rd National Shooting Championship Competitions Rifle/Pistol in Bhopal.

Mehuli had to settle for silver while Apurvi won the bronze.

12. Mirabai Chanu wins gold at Qatar International Cup

Former world champion, weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu won the women's 49kg category gold medal at the 6th Qatar International Cup in Doha. Chanu bagged gold with an effort of 194 kg in the Olympic qualifying event.

Mirabai Chanu hails from Manipur.

13. Abhinav Lohan wins Bengaluru Open Golf Championship

Abhinav Lohan lifted PGTI title at the Bengaluru Open golf championship. It was Lohan's first title on the TATA Steel PGTI and second win of the year. He became the fourth Indian golfer to register his maiden title on the TATA Steel PGTI.

Bogey, double-bogey, birdies are words related to Golf.

14. Liverpool won FIFA Club World Cup 2019

An extra-time goal from Roberto Firmino gave Liverpool a 1-0 victory over Brazil's Flamengo to win the Club World Cup at the Khalifa stadium. It is the first time Liverpool have won the competition became only the second English team to lift the trophy.

English team Manchester United won the trophy in 2008.

15. Maisnam Meiraba Luwang wins Bangladesh Junior International Badminton Series

India's shuttler Maisnam Meiraba Luwang has won the Men's singles Bangladesh Junior International Badminton Series 2019 in Dhaka. Meiraba, who hails from Manipur, beat Ken Yong Ong in the final. He had defeated M Fazriq Mohamad Razif, in the semi-finals.

In women's singles Treasa Jolly lost to Krittaporn Jiantanet.

16. Indian weightlifter Rakhi creates two new national records

Indian weightlifter Rakhi Halder with creating two new national records clinched a bronze medal in the women's 64kg weight category at the Qatar International Cup in Doha. Rakhi Halder superseded the senior national record in both snatch and total lift.

India ended the Olympic qualifying event with three medals.

17. Manu Bhaker, Anish Bhanwala clinch five gold medals at National C'ships

Manu Bhaker and Anish Bhanwala clinched gold medals at the 63rd National Shooting Championships in Bhopal. She clinched four gold medals in the women's 10-meter air pistol. He won a gold medal in the senior men's 25-meter rapid fire pistol event.

Manu Bhaker is representing Haryana

18. ICC Test rankings: Kohli finishes 2019 as top ranked batsman

Virat Kohli will end the year as the top ranked batsman in the latest ICC Test rankings issued. With 928 points, Kohli is 17 points ahead of Australia's Steve Smith who occupies the second spot. New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson is at the third position.

Cheteshwar Pujara retained 4th place but Rahane slipped to 7th.

19. Leander Paes to retire from Tennis in 2020

Indian tennis ace Leander Paes has announced his retirement from tennis on 2020. Leander will look for one final flourish at Tokyo Olympics next year. He has made 7 appearances in a row at the Olympics making him the only tennis player ever to do so.

Paes has won 8 doubles and 10 mixed doubles Grand Slam titles.

20. Kohli among five Wisden cricketers of the decade

Indian skipper Virat Kohli is one of the 5 players named in the Wisden Cricketers of the Decade. Kohli joins Australian batsman Steve Smith, & South Africans, Dale Steyn, & AB de Villiers. Ellyse Perry (Australia) is the only female cricketer in the list.

Kohli is the first to win seven successive Test games.

21. Kohli, Dhoni named captains of Test and ODI team of the decade by Cricket Australia

Kohli has been named captain of the Test XI of the decade by Cricket Australia's official news website, while Mahendra Singh Dhoni was chosen as the leader of its ODI team of the decade. Kohli is also third in the list of leading run-scorers of all time.

Dhoni captained India to two World titles-in 2007 and 2011.

22. Koneru Humpy becomes Women's World Rapid Chess Champion

Indian grandmaster Koneru Humpy has become the 2019 Women's World Rapid Chess Champion. She defeated China's Lei Tingjie in a final in Moscow, Russia. After losing the opening game, Humpy collected 9 points each in 12 rounds to be tied with Tingjie.

Norway's Magnus Carlsen claimed the men's title.

23. Udayan Mane bags TATA Steel Tour Championship title

In Golf, Udayan Mane produced a flawless seven-under 65 on the final day to claim a thrilling one-shot win at the season-ending TATA Steel Tour Championship in Jamshedpur. It was Mane's eighth professional title and his second win on the PGTI this season.

SSP Chawrasia had settled for second place.

24. Assam to host Khelo India youth games in January 2020

6500 athletes from 37 teams will take part in the 3rd Khelo India youth games in Guwahati beginning from 10th of January. Lawn ball and cycling will be included in the Khelo India for the first time. Total of 20 competitions will be held at 11 venues.

CM Sarbananda Sonowal has launched the torch relay of the event.

25. IOA withdraws boycott call for 2022 Commonwealth Games

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has withdrawn its threat to boycott the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham over Shooting's exclusion. It also announced that the country will bid to host either 2026 or 2030 edition. CGF President-Dame Louise Martin.

CGF-Commonwealth Games Federation.

Agreements

1. Aditya Birla Health Insurance, Mobikwik partner to offer affordable Cancer Protect Cover

Aditya Birla Health Insurance has entered into a partnership with Mobikwik to offer simple sachet health insurance products. It is innovative cancer protect cover. With a 1-year tenure, it will provide a sum insured of 1.5 Lakh for ₹ 125.

Co-founder of Mobikwik – Upasana Taku.

2. IFC to invest USD 200 million in Mahindra Finance

International Finance Corporation has anchored an investment of USD 200 million in Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services to create a dedicated pool of financing for MSMEs in low-income states. At least \$ 100 million will be earmarked for women-owned MSMEs

Total credit gap for MSMEs in India is 15% of GDP (IFC study).

3. Walmart launches credit card in partnership with HDFC Bank

Walmart India, in partnership with HDFC Bank, launched a co-branded credit card exclusively for members of its Best Price Modern Wholesale 'B2B Cash & Carry' stores. The co-branded credit card offers free credit up to 50 days.

Krish Iyer - President and CEO of Walmart India.

4. Canada's CPPIB to invest up to \$600 mln in Indian infrastructure fund

Canada's biggest public pension fund is set to invest up to \$600 mn. in India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF). The deal includes a commitment of \$150 million in NIIF's Master Fund & co-investment rights of up to \$450 million in future.

The NIIF is majority-owned by institutional investors.

5. NTPC signs term loan of Rs 5,000 crore with SBI

Power generation company NTPC has signed a term loan agreement for Rs 5,000 crore with State Bank of India, extended at an interest rate linked to 3-month MCLR for 15-year tenure to be utilised to part finance the capital expenditure of NTPC

Present installed capacity of NTPC: 57,356 MW across 54 stations

6. Ukraine & IMF reach \$5.5 billion agreement

Ukraine and IMF have reached agreement on a new USD 5.5 billion programme to accelerate country's growth and to boost economic reforms. The decision was taken by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva.

Ukraine Capital- Kyiv, Currency- Ukrainian Hryvnia.

7. Vistara inks codeshare agreement with Lufthansa

Vistara has signed a codeshare pact with Lufthansa. The 2 carriers already have an interline partnership. Code sharing allows an airline to book its passengers on its partner carriers & provide seamless travel to destinations where it has no presence.

Lufthansa would add its 'LH' designator code to Vistara flights.

8. India & Australia for collaboration to counter terror threat

Two countries decided to collaborate to counter terrorism through increased information sharing, during the 3rd India-Australia Secretary-level 22 Dialogue in New Delhi. Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar & Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale led Indian delegation.

Greg Moriarty & Frances Adamson were the counterparts.

9. Reliance & ADNOC explore JV to build ethylene dichloride facility in Ruwais

Reliance Industries Ltd has signed an agreement with state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to explore a joint venture for building an ethylene dichloride (EDC) facility in Ruwais, UAE. EDC is a basic building-block for manufacture of PVC.

ADNOC would supply ethylene to the potential joint venture.

10. Piramal Group, IIFL Wealth Management create Rs 2,000 cr fund for realty projects

Piramal Group & IIFL Wealth Management has floated co-investment Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) platform to fund select advance stage & last-mile real estate projects across Tier 1 cities in India. Proposed AIF will have a target size of Rs 2,000 cr.

Karan Bhagat, Founder, MD & CEO, IIFL Wealth Management

11. US, Mexico & Canada sign USMCA trade deal

The representatives from the United States, Mexico and Canada inked a revamped version of their regional trade pact-USMCA, after months of negotiations. The accord is meant to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), a deal in place since 1994.

USMCA was signed more than a year ago to replace NAFTA.

12. Cabinet approves Agreement on Social Security between India and Brazil

Cabinet approved signing of the Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Federative Republic of Brazil. The idea to ink pacts on SSAs with BRICS nations was discussed at the meetings of the BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers.

It aims to help people working abroad for short durations.

13. Cabinet approves MoU between India, Saudi Arabia in medical products regulation

Cabinet approved ex-post facto the MoU between Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and Saudi Food & Drug Authority in the field of medical products regulation. The MoU was signed during the visit of PM Modi to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

It helps in increasing India's medical products export to Saudi.

14. MoU between India and Japan Coal Energy Centre gets Cabinet approval

Cabinet has given its approval for the signing of MOU b/w Central Electricity Authority, India and Japan Coal Energy Centre, on Japan-India cooperation for Efficiency & Environmental Improvement for Sustainable, Stable & Low-Carbon supply of Electricity.

Japan PM- Shinzo Abe, Capital- Tokyo, Currency-Japanese Yen.

15. Pact between India and Japan in Steel Sector receives cabinet approval

Cabinet has given its approval for signing the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between Government of India and Government of Japan to constitute the 'India-Japan Steel Dialogue' to strengthen cooperation in steel sector.

MoC Aim-Capacity building for high grade steel manufacturing.

16. India signs agreement with Kazakhstan for supply of Uranium

A Contract was signed with M/sJSC NAC Kazatomprom, Kazakhstan for the procurement of 5000 MT of Uranium Ore Concentrate spread over a period of 5 years at an indicative total cost of Rs.3156 crore, with an option to procure additional quantity of 500 MT.

500 MT per year of UOC is procured for four years from 2016.

17. INTACH: to provide consultancy services for Post-Earthquake reconstruction of Cultural Heritage sites in Nepal

The govt of India has deployed Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) to provide consultancy services for Post-Earthquake reconstruction of 11 Cultural Heritage sites in Nepal. INTACH will work with Nepal's Department of Archeology.

Indian Ambassador to Nepal- Manjeev Singh Puri.

18. FSSAI & NASSCOM Foundation partner to develop app to prevent food wastage

To prevent food wastage, FSSAI and NASSCOM Foundation have joined hands to develop an app named 'Food Donation in India' and they are also planning to set up a 24x7 helpline number to connect donors with surplus edibles to food distribution organisations.

FSSAI CEO-Pawan Agarwal, NASSCOM CEO-Ashok Pamidi.

19. Pakistan signs pact with World Bank for financing Khyber Pass Economic Corridor project

Isl Pakistan & World Bank has signed a project agreement worth \$406.6 million for financing the Khyber Pass Economic Corridor (KPEC) project with an aim to promote economic development. The project is aimed at constructing a 48km 4-lane, dual carriageway.

Pass is from Peshawar to Torkham border point with Afghanistan.

20. ICAR & NABARD sign MoU to develop Climate Resilient Technologies for farmers

ICAR & NABARD have signed a MOU to facilitate the research & technologies to develop climate resilient practices in the agriculture sector and integrated & hi-tech farming practices in a participatory model through adoptive research on watershed platform.

ICAR- Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

21. Reliance & BP sign pact to set up petrol pumps under Jio-BP brand

Reliance Industries and British energy giant BP plc signed a partnership agreement to jointly grow the Indian firm's network of petrol pumps to 5,500 from the existing No 1,400. BP's Castrol lubricants will also be available across the venture's network.

This is the 3rd joint venture between Reliance & BP since 2011.

22. Honda Cars India partners TranzLease for auto finance solution

Honda Cars India Ltd it has tied up with TranzLease to offer auto finance solution for its customers. Under the partnership 'Smart EMI' was introduced for its customers which will take care of various requirements of vehicles during financing period.

TranzLease-automobile leasing & mobility solutions provider.

23. CSIR partners with CNRS to promote scientific & technological research

To promote and support scientific and technological research, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), India and the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France in New Delhi.

Director General of CSIR- Shekhar C Mande.

24. India, US sign industrial security agreement for transfer of defence technology

India & US have agreed to deepen the bilateral cooperation and increase defence trade. They also agreed to intensify their coordination with like-minded countries like Japan for a peaceful Indo-Pacific region and put up a decisive fight against terrorism.

Second 2+2 India US ministerial dialogue held in Washington D.C

25. Isuzu ties up with Volvo to develop electric vehicles

Isuzu Motors will buy Volvo AB's UD Trucks business, which has an enterprise value of \$2.3 billion, and tie up with the Swedish firm to cut costs and develop electric and self-driving technologies. Volvo has already begun marketing battery-electric trucks.

Volvo is the world's fifth-largest truck-making group.

26. EESL & Baghirathi Sustainability ink MoU

Energy Efficiency Services Ltd has signed a MoU with Baghirathi Sustainability India to explore promoting electric vehicles in India. With this MoU, EESL seeks to deploy around 250 EVs & fast-track the adoption of e-mobility within private & govt agencies.

Baghirathi currently operates fleet of around 131 EVs in India.

27. ADB's 490 million dollars loan to upgrade Indian state's roads

ADB & GoI signed a \$490 mn loan for PPP to upgrade 1600 km of state highways & dist roads from single lane to 2-lane widths in MP. GoI will release 60% of total cost during construction & remaining 40% is arranged in the form of equity & commercial debt.

Since 2002, ADB has provided 5 loans to MP for its road network.

28. ICC extends partnership with UNICEF for 2020 Women's T20 World Cup

International Cricket Council announced that it has extended its partnership with UNICEF through to the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020 with the focus on empowering women and girls through cricket. The programme will run for 12 months.

ICC and UNICEF partnership commenced in 2015.

29. US, India announce establishment of annual Parliamentary Exchange

US & India have announced the establishment of an annual Parliamentary Exchange to discuss issues of strategic importance to the bilateral relationship coincided with the US-India 2+2 Ministerial. The Parliamentary Exchange is expected to begin in 2020.

Second US-India 2+2 dialogue was held in Washington.

30. WE Hub partners with Start-up India, DPIIT

WE Hub announced its partnership with Start-up India, DPIIT to promote entrepreneurs. The two entities have joined hands to launch Start-up India's flagship programme for women entrepreneurs called WING (Women Rise Together program in Telangana).

DPIIT-Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

31. Michelin And ARAI Sign MoU For Knowledge Sharing And Joint Automobile Technology Projects

Michelin has announced signing an MoU with the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) to develop a new strategic partnership in India. Michelin and ARAI will improve representation and reproducibility of tyre certification testing.

Michelin is a French tire manufacturer based in Clermont-Ferrand

32. India & Iran agree to accelerate Chabahar development

External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar met with Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif for the 19th India-Iran joint commission in Tehran & agreed to accelerate Chabahar port development. It is jointly being developed by India, Iran & Afghanistan.

Iran President- Hassan Rouhani, Capital-Tehran.

33. UAE and Oman sign MoU to enhance trade & economic cooperation

The UAE federal export credit company, Etihad Credit Insurance (ECI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Export Credit Guarantee Agency of Oman (Credit Oman) to enhance the trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

10th AMAN UNION General Assembly, held in Muscat.

34. Wipro partners with NASSCOM to skill students

Wipro has partnered with industry body NASSCOM to start a training platform on emerging technologies such as AI, data science, internet of things. Through this platform, Wipro will train 10,000 students from more than 20 engineering colleges in India.

It is part of Wipro's corporate social responsibility programme.

35. Coal India inks pact with OCPL

Coal India has joined hands with Odisha Coal and Power Ltd for buying 6,000 tonnes per day from the Manoharpur captive mine of OCPL, owned by the Odisha govt. Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) and OCPL have entered into an MoU for provisioning of excess coal.

Coal India may supply the coal received to its own customers.

36. First tripartite Memorandum of Agreement signed under FIDF

The first tripartite Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between the department of Fisheries, NARBARD and the Government of Tamil Nadu for the implementation of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund (FIDF) with total outlay of Rs. 7522.48 Crores.

Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Minister -Giriraj Singh.

37. MakeMyTrip to offer e-tickets for Hyderabad metro rail

MakeMyTrip, along with Larsen & Toubro Metro Rail Hyderabad Ltd introduced QR code-based e-tickets for the metro rail that would provide cashless and connected experience to riders. The feature would help commuters beat the queues at the metro stations.

Commuters would be able to book tickets for 20 stations now.

38. SEBI signs pact with AFSA for mutual co-operation, technical assistance

SEBI has signed a pact with Kazakhstan's Astana Financial Services Authority (AFSA) for the mutual co-operation and technical assistance. The objective of the bilateral MoU is to strengthen cross border co-operation in the area of securities regulation.

Chairman of SEBI- Ajay Tyagi.

39. Saudi & Kuwait ink deal to resume joint oil output

Saudi Arabia & Kuwait signed an agreement to resume pumping at 2 major oilfields in a shared neutral zone shut for five years due to a bilateral disagreement. They also signed an agreement on the demarcation of land & maritime borders in the neutral zone.

500000 barrels/day were pumped before the production was halted.

40. Ashok Leyland & Citicorp Finance join hands for financing commercial vehicles

Ashok Leyland has partnered with Citicorp Finance India Ltd for financing commercial vehicles. Company has signed a MoU with CFIL to enter into a strategic financing partnership for 2 years, to offer customised financial solutions to customers in India.

CFIL will also offer its banking products and services.

41. India, Japan pledge to deepen maritime ties

India & Japan vowed to deepen maritime cooperation & also held consultations on disarmament, non-proliferation & export control. The 5th Round of India-Japan Maritime Affairs Dialogue was held in Tokyo, with the Indian delegation led by Indra Mani Pandey.

He is the Additional Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs.

42. CDRI, Cipla collaborate to develop drugs

Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-Central Drug Research Institute (CSIR-CDRI) signed MoU for collaboration to jointly develop new drugs for treating various medical conditions & repurposing of drugs for India & global markets with Cipla Ltd.

Umang Vohra, MD & Global CEO of Cipla

43. BEML signs pact with IRCON to explore overseas market

BEML Ltd, a defence public sector, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IRCON International Ltd to explore opportunities in the overseas market by synergising each other's strengths for large infrastructure projects in the transportation sector.

MoU is aimed at promoting BEML equipment for railway projects.

44. HDFC Life Insurance partners with Paytm to expand its distribution

HDFC Life Insurance, one of India's leading private life insurers has partnered with Paytm to enable customers of Paytm to purchase insurance products from HDFC Life. HDFC Life has been doing strategic partnerships across industries to have a wider reach.

Paytm President-Amit Nayyar.

Schemes

1. Andhra Pradesh launches post-operative sustenance allowance scheme, YSR Aasaraa

AP Chief Minister Y.S Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the YSR Aasaraa scheme under which postoperative sustenance allowance of Rs. 225 each per day will be paid for the period of treatment to those covered by Aarogyasri.

Aarogyasri scheme, launched in 2008.

2. Government launches Regional Connectivity Scheme 4.0

Government has launched the 4th round of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) meant to stimulate air connectivity in an affordable way, which is a part of its plan to operationalize over 100 airports in smaller towns and cities over the next five year.

Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), also known as UDAN.

3. UP govt announces 25% subsidy & full stamp duty waiver for defence industry

Uttar Pradesh govt. has decided to provide 25% subsidy & 100% stamp duty waiver for setting up defence industry in the state. Development Min. Satish Mahana said that the benefit will apply to builders who are set to provide homes to buyers by June 2021.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

4. Government procured just 3% of pulses, seeds targeted under PM-AASHA scheme

According to Agriculture Ministry data ,Less than 3% of this season's sanctioned amount of pulses and oilseeds have actually been procured so far under the once-hyped PM-AASHA scheme.Eleven States opted for the scheme this season.

PM-AASHA or Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan.

5. TRIFED Sanctions 676 VDVks under PM Van Dhan Yojana

TRIFED has sanctioned 676 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in 18 States covering 2,00,740 beneficiaries for a sanctioned amount of Rs. 99.81 Cr. PMVDY is a Market Linked Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Program for forming clusters of tribal Self-Help Groups.

TRIFED aims to establish 3000 VDVks each year over next 5 yrs

6. Odisha reduces KALIA assistance to Rs 4,000 from Rs 10,000

Odisha government reduced the financial assistance given to farmers under the Kalia scheme to Rs 4,000 per annum from Rs 10,000. Decision to reduce the Kalia assistance was taken after the Odisha government merged the scheme with PM-KISAN

PM-KISAN scheme provides assistance of Rs 6,000 per annum

7. GEM launches national outreach programme 'GeM Samvaad'

GeM has launched a national outreach programme, GeM Samvaad, to bring on-board more local sellers. The programme will take place with stakeholders across the country and with local sellers to facilitate on-boarding of local sellers on the marketplace.

The programme was launched by Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan.

8. Odisha CM launches 'Jalsathi' programme

Odisha Government has launched the 'Jalsathi' programme to ensure supply of safe drinking water to all households in the state. The inclusion of woman volunteers from Mission Shakti in it for piped water supply will boost their economic empowerment.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

9. Govt has approved projects worth Rs 7000 Cr under Nirbhaya fund

Under the NIRBHAYA Fund, projects of Rs 7,000 crore, including setting up of 1,023 fast-track courts, have been approved by the Modi government as a tribute to the 23-year-old Delhi gangrape victim, Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani said.

NIRBHAYA Fund is used for the safety and empowerment of women.

10. EChO Network launched to catalyse cross-disciplinary leadership in India

EChO Network-a national program to provide a template for cross-disciplinary leadership in India with the specific focus of increasing research, knowledge, & awareness of Indian ecology & the environment was launched in New Delhi by Prof. K Vijay Raghavan.

He is the Principal Scientific Adviser to the GOI.

11. Andhra CM Jagan launches YSR Nethanna Nestham to benefit weavers

Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the 'Nethanna Nestham'. ₹ 24000 will be credited directly into the bank accounts of the weavers having own looms every year. The amount will not be adjusted to the old dues of the beneficiary to the bank.

The Amma Vodi scheme will be launched on January 2020.

12. Aadhaar made mandatory for PMVVY pension scheme

The Government has made Aadhaar mandatory for subscribers of the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) -a pension scheme for senior citizens. The scheme, which envisages an assured rate of return of 8% annually, is being implemented through LIC.

The scheme is available for subscription till March 2020.

Appointments

1. Soma Roy Burman appointed new Controller General of Accounts

Soma Roy Burman, a 1986-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) Officer, took charge as the new Controller General of Accounts. Burman is 24th Controller General of Accounts (CGA) & is the 7th woman to hold this coveted position

Comptroller and Auditor General: Rajiv Mehrishi

2. Masatsugu Asakawa elected new ADB president

The Asian Development Bank has elected Masatsugu Asakawa as its new president. He is currently serving as a Special Advisor to Japan's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. He is set to assume office as ADB's 10th president on Jan 17, 2020.

ADB: Members – 68; HQ – Manila, Philippines.

3. Ursula von der Leyen takes charge as the President of European Union

Ursula von der Leyen is the first woman to hold the post of President of the European Commission. She is the former German defence minister. She succeeds Jean-Claude Juncker. She has made the issue of climate change one of her top priorities.

European Union: HQ – Brussels, Belgium.

4. Sundar Pichai named CEO at Google parent Alphabet after founders step down

Google co-founders Larry Page & Sergey Brin have stepped down from the leadership role of the parent company Alphabet. Google CEO, Sundar Pichai, will be assuming the role of Alphabet CEO, making him one of the most powerful corporate leaders of the world.

The new Google logo uses a sans-serif typeface.

5. Biocon elevates Siddharth Mittal as CEO

Biocon has elevated Siddharth Mittal as the chief executive officer & joint MD with effect from December 1. Mittal, a core member of the leadership team at Biocon since May 2013, has been the chief financial officer of the biotech company since Aug. 2014.

Biocon founded by -Ms. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, in 1978.

6. Pritvirajsing Roopun elected new President of Mauritius

Prithvirajsing Roopun has been elected new President of the island nation by The National Assembly of Republic of Mauritius. He was former arts and culture minister of country. He succeeded Ameenah Gurib-Fakim who resigned in March 2018.

Marie Cyril Eddy Boissezon, new Vice-President of Mauritius.

7. Finland elects Sanna Marin-the youngest-ever Prime Minister

Finland's Social Democrats elected former transport minister-Sanna Marin to the post of Prime Minister, making her the youngest head of govt in the country's history. She will succeed Antti Rinne who stepped down after several weeks of political crisis.

Finland Capital- Helsinki, Currency- Euro.

8. Shrikant Madhav Vaidya to be next Indian Oil Corporation Chief

The Public Enterprise Selection Board has shortlisted Shrikant Madhav Vaidya to be the next Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. He is presently the Director (Finance) at Indian Oil. He will take over from Sanjiv Singh, who retires in June 2020.

IOCL was founded in 1959. HQ – New Delhi.

9. TV Somanathan appointed as the Expenditure Secretary

TV Somanathan has been appointed as the Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. The appointment comes after the post of expenditure secretary became vacant following the appointment of GC Murmu as the first lieutenant governor of J&K.

Ravi Mittal- Secretary of Information & Broadcasting Ministry.

10. Reliance Capital elects A N Sethuraman as additional director on its board

Reliance Capital has appointed Angarai Natarajan Sethuraman as additional director on its board. He is currently Group President of Reliance Group and handles corporate and regulatory affairs. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics.

President & COO at Reliance Capital-Amit Bapna.

11. Vinod Kannan takes over as Chief Commercial Officer of Vistara

Vistara's Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) Sanjiv Kapoor has resigned due to the personal reasons, four years after he joined the airline. The airline's Chief Strategy Officer, Vinod Kannan, will take over from Kapoor, who joined the airline in March 2016.

Vistara is the JV between Tata Sons and Singapore Airline.

12. Sridhar Patra appointed as NALCO CMD

Sridhar Patra is appointed as the chairman-cum-managing director of NALCO. Patra is at present Director (Finance) in the National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). He will succeed Tapan Kumar Chand. NALCO's Registered Office is in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

NALCO is a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Mines.

13. Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane to be next Army Chief

Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane will be the next Chief of Army Staff. He is currently serving as Vice Chief of the Army. He was heading the Eastern Command of the Army. Lt Gen Naravane will succeed Gen Bipin Rawat, who will retire on the 31st of this month.

He has been awarded Sena Medal & Param Vishisht Seva Medal.

14. Nagaland Guv RN Ravi given additional charge of Meghalaya

RN Ravi, Guv of Nagaland, has been given additional charge of Meghalaya. The posting came at a time when Assam and other parts of North East are reeling under protests over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019. He replaced Tathagata Roy who is on a leave.

Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Conrad Sangma.

15. Mallika Srinivasan on USIBC board

Mallika Srinivasan-Chairman of Tractors and Farm Equipment has been appointed to the Global Board of the US Chamber of Commerce's US-India Business Council (USIBC). Shekar Ayyar, Rajan Navani and David Taghioff have also been appointed to the Global board.

USIBC was formed in 1975 as a business advocacy organization.

16. Aditya Mittal: ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Chairman

ArcelorMittal & Nippon Steel Corporation combine, which acquired Essar Steel through an insolvency driven process has formed a new JV company ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India and appointed Aditya Mittal, President and CFO, Arcelor Mittal as its Chairman.

ArcelorMittal will hold 60% in the new company.

17. Tata Global Beverages Ltd appoints Sunil D'Souza as MD & CEO

Tata Global Beverages Ltd (TGBL) announced appointment of Sunil Alaric D'Souza as its Managing Director and CEO. He is currently the MD of consumer durable firm Whirlpool of India. Prior to this, he had a 15-year stint in Pepsico.

He started his career at Brooke Bond Lipton India in 1993.

18. BMW Financial Services India appoints Kathrin Frauscher as MD & CEO

Gurgaon-headquartered BMW Financial Services India, a subsidiary of the BMW Group, has appointed Kathrin Frauscher as its new MD and CEO. She succeeds Andre Van Rheenen. Kathrin Frauscher has been associated with the BMW Group since 2007.

BMW is the acronym for Bayerische Motoren Werke AG.

19. Arshi Ahmad Ali appointed as CFO, HUDCO

Arshi Ahmad Ali has been appointed as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO). Prior to this, she was serving as Executive Director (Finance) in the same organisation.

M. Ravi Kanth, Chairman & Managing Director HUDCO.

20. Telangana: Former HC Judge CV Ramulu appointed as Lokayukta

In Telangana, former High Court Judge Justice CV Ramulu has been appointed as the Lokayukta. Telangana Governor Tamilisai Sounderarajan has issued the orders to this effect. Former Law Secretary V Niranjan Rao has been appointed as the Upa Lokayukta.

This is the 1st time that the state govt constituted Lokayukta.

21. Sanjeev Maheshwari appointed part-time non-official Director on SBI Board

State Bank of India announced the appointment of Sanjeev Maheshwari as part-time non-official Director on the Central Board of the Bank for a period of three years with effect from date of government notification of his appointment.

SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar.

22. Devesh Srivastava appointed GIC chief

Govt has appointed Devesh Srivastava as the Chairman &MD of General Insurance Corporation of India. Srivastava succeeds Alice Vaidyan who retired in July 2019. Govt appointed Malay Kumar Poddar as chairman &MD of Agriculture Insurance Corporation of India.

GIC Re accounted for about 60% of premiums during FY 17.

23. CARE Ratings MD Rajesh Mokashi resigns

CARE Ratings Managing Director Rajesh Mokashi tendered his resignation. T N Arun Kumar will continue to act as the interim chief executive officer of the company. Mokashi was sent on leave by the company in July.

CARE Ratings founded in the year-1993

24. H.K. Joshi appointed Shipping Corporation of India CMD

Shipping Corporation of India announced that Harjeet Kaur Joshi Director (Finance) and holding Additional Charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director, assumed as full-time Chairperson & Managing Director (CMD), Shipping Corporation of India.

Shipping Corporation of India, Headquarters: Mumbai.

25. CH. S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao appointed nominee director PNB Housing Finance

PNB Housing Finance has appointed CH. S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao as Non-executive Director (Nominee Director of Punjab National Bank). Rao is MD and CEO of Punjab National Bank (PNB).

Sanjaya Gupta is the MD & CEO of PNB Housing Finance.

26. Manuel Marrero Cruz appointed as Cuba's first PM in more than 40 years

President Miguel Diaz-Canel has appointed Manuel Marrero Cruz as the Cuba's 1st PM in more than 40 yrs. Marrero who has served as tourism minister for 16 yrs, is an architect by trade, & helped to boost Cuba's economy. The post of PM was scrapped in 1976.

Revolutionary leader Fidel Castro was the last PM.

27. Harsh Vardhan Shringla appointed as next foreign secretary

Harsh Vardhan Shringla, India's Ambassador to the US, has been appointed as the new Foreign Secretary. Shringla is a 1984-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service. He will take over the charge of the foreign secretary from incumbent Vijay Gokhale.

He is the 33rd foreign secretary of the country.

28. Niranjan Hiranandani takes over as ASSOCHAM president

Hiranandani Group Managing Director Niranjan Hiranandani has taken over as the new president of industry body ASSOCHAM. Hiranandani succeeds Welspun Group Chairman Balkrishan Goenka. ASSOCHAM was founded in the year 1921 and is headquartered in New Delhi.

ASSOCHAM- Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India

29. Indian American Monisha Ghosh named as first woman CTO at FCC in US

Monisha Ghosh has been appointed as the first woman Chief Technology Officer at the US government's powerful Federal Communications Commission. She will advise Indian American Chairman of the FCC Ajit Pai and the agency on technology & engineering issues.

She replaces Dr Eric Burger.

30. ESAF Small Finance Bank appoints PR Ravi Mohan as its new chairman

ESAF Small Finance Bank has appointed PR Ravi Mohan as its new chairman. He replaced R Prabha. He headed the Banking Supervision Department of RBI & was responsible for the supervision of commercial banks in the country.

ESAF SFB was incorporated on May 5, 2016 in Thrissur.

31. Hemant Soren to take oath as Jharkhand CM

In Jharkhand, Grand Alliance leader Hemant Soren will take oath as Chief Minister on Dec 29. He was projected as the chief ministerial candidate by the JMM, Congress and RJD Alliance that gained a majority in the recently concluded Assembly polls.

Governor of Jharkhand - Draupadi Murmu.

32. Sangita Reddy is FICCI President

Sangita Reddy has taken over as the President of industry chamber FICCI for 2019-20. She succeeds Sandip Somany. Uday Shankar has been elevated as Senior Vice-President of the chamber & Sanjiv Mehta has taken charge as the Vice- President.

FICCI is headquartered at New Delhi & Founded in 1927.

33. Hemant Soren sworn in as Chief Minister of Jharkhand

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, JMM leader Hemant Soren took oath as the 11th Chief Minister of the state. Governor Draupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to Mr Soren at Morhabadi grounds in Ranchi. This is 44-year Soren' second stint as Jharkhand CM.

Cabinet decided to setup Fastrack courts in all districts.

34. Statistics ministry constitutes committee on economic statistics headed by Pronab Sen

MOSPI has constituted a 28 member Standing Committee on Statistics (SCES) chaired by former Chief Statistician Pronab Sen to improve quality of data amid criticism of the govt over political interference. First meeting is scheduled on January 6, 2020.

MOSPI had decided to launch Consumer Expenditure Survey earlier.

35. General Bipin Rawat appointed first Chief of Defence Staff

Army Chief General Bipin Rawat has been named the country's 1st Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). CDS will function as a single-point advisor to the govt on matters related to the military & will focus on better synergy between the Army, Air Force & the Navy.

CDS will be the Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee.

Appointment	Post
Soma Roy Burman	New Controller General of Accounts
Masatsugu Asakawa	President, Asian Development Bank
Ursula von der Leyen	President, European Commission
Sundar Pichai	CEO, Alphabet
Siddharth Mittal	CEO & MD, Biocon
Prithvirajsing Roopun	President, Mauritius
Sanna Marin	Prime Minister, Finland
Shrikant Madhav Vaidy	Chairman, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd
TV Somanathan	Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance
Angarai Natarajan Sethuraman	Additional director, Reliance Capital
Vinod Kannan	Chief Commercial Officer, Vistara
Sridhar Patra	Chairman-cum-managing director, NALCO
Manoj Mukund Naravane	Chief of Army Staff
RN Ravi	Governor of Meghalaya (Additional Charge)
Mallika Srinivasan	Chairman, Tractors and Farm Equipment
Aditya Mittal	Chairman, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India
Kathrin Frauscher	MD and CEO, BMW Financial Services India
Arshi Ahmad Ali	Chief Financial Officer, Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited
Justice CV Ramulu	Lokayukta, Telangana
Sanjeev Maheshwari	Part-time Non-Official Director, SBI
Devesh Srivastava	Chairman & MD, General Insurance Corporation of India
Rajesh Mokashi (Resignation)	Managing Director, CARE Ratings

Harjeet Kaur Joshi	CMD, Shipping Corporation of India
S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao	Non-Executive Director, PNB Housing Finance
Manuel Marrero Cruz	Prime Minister, Cuba
Harsh Vardhan Shringla	Foreign Secretary
Niranjan Hiranandani	President, ASSOCHAM
Monisha Ghosh	Chief Technology Officer, Federal Communications Commission
PR Ravi Mohan	Chairman, ESAF Small Finance Bank
Hemant Soren	CM, Jharkhand
Sangita Reddy	President, FICCI
Vishal Sikka	Board of Director, Oracle
Jairam Sridharan (Resignation)	Chief Financial Officer, Axis Bank
K. Vijay Kumar	Senior Security Advisor to MHA

Awards

1. Ministry of Environment awards for short film competition on environment

Additional Secretary Environment Ministry, Ravi Agrawal presented the awards to several school students & professionals for their documentaries & films in New Delhi. Out of the 345 entries received, 90 films were nominated for screening before the Jury

Environment Minister: Prakash Javadekar

2. Duncan Hamilton wins William Hill Sports Book of the Year for third time

Duncan Hamilton bagged the 31st William Hill Sports Book of the Year award, becoming the only author in its history to have won 3 times. He was presented with £30,000 cash prize for his biography of the Guardian's late cricket correspondent Neville Cardus.

William Hill plc is a bookmaker based in Central London, England

3. National Florence Nightingale Award 2019 to Lini Puthussery

Lini Puthussery, the nurse from Kerala who died due to Nipah virus that she contracted while treating a patient last year during the Nipah outbreak, has been posthumously awarded National Florence Nightingale Award 2019.

WHO has announced 2020 as the year of the nurse and mid-wife.

4. Space start up with AI solution to stubble burning wins 'Space Oscar'

The application, Zuri of the Space start up Blue-Sky Analytics won Copernicus Masters award given by the Earth observation program managed by the European Commission in partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA). It is also dubbed as 'Space Oscars'.

Zuri was selected under social entrepreneurship category.

5. Miss Jamaica Toni-Ann Singh crowned Miss World 2019

Tony-Ann Singh of Jamaica has been announced as the winner of the Miss World 2019 beauty pageant held at the ExCeL London. Ophely Mezino of France and Suman Rao of India were the first and second runners up of the beauty pageant respectively.

Miss World 2019 was the 69th edition of the contest

6. Amitabha Bagchi wins \$25,000 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2019

Amitabha Bagchi's new novel titled, "Half the Night Is Gone" won the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2019. The novel is being cited as a novel in English that feels like a book written in an Indian language which has lost nothing in the translation.

It was given by Nepal Foreign Affairs Minister- Pradeep Gawali.

7. Shashi Tharoor wins Sahitya Akademi Award 2019 for An Era Of Darkness

Indian politician, writer Shashi Tharoor won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2019. He won the prestigious award for his book An Era of Darkness: The British Empire in India. He is Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha from Thiruvananthapuram.

Sahitya Akademi announced 2019 awards for works in 23 languages

8. India Green Energy Award for BHEL Tiruchi plant

The 7.5 MWp Solar Photo Voltaic Plant functioning in BHEL Tiruchi has won the Corporation Indian Green Energy Award 2019 in the 'Outstanding Renewable Energy Generation Projects (Solar)' category instituted by the Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE).

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) CMD, Nalin Shinghal.

9. Archaeologist honoured in Bangladesh

Noted archaeologist R. Nagaswamy was honoured at the Silver Jubilee International Conference of Art in Dhaka. He was honoured for his contribution to art, archaeology, history, and culture. In 2018, he was awarded Padma Bhushan.

He served as the founder-Director of the TN Archaeology Dept.

10. Major Anoop Mishra awarded Army Design Bureau Excellence Award

Indian Army Chief General Bipin Rawat felicitated Major Anoop Mishra with prestigious Army Design Bureau (ADB) Excellence Award for indigenously developing 'Sarvatra Kavach'-a bulletproof jacket that can provide protection against various ammunition.

It can provide protection against sniper rifle bullets.

11. Ilaiyaraaja selected for Harivarasanam award for 2020

Renowned musician & composer Ilaiyaraaja has been selected for Harivarasanam award for 2020. Award-comprises a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, is given to those persons who have contributed to propagate the spirit of secularism & universal brotherhood through music.

Award comprises a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, citation & a plaque.

Winner	Award
Duncan Hamilton	1st William Hill Sports Book of the Year award
Lini Puthussery	National Florence Nightingale Award 2019.
Tony-Ann Singh	Miss World 2019
Amitabha Bagchi	DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2019
Shashi Tharoor	Sahitya Akademi Award 2019
BHEL Tiruchi	Corporation Indian Green Energy Award 2019
Bipin Rawat	Army Design Bureau Excellence Award
Ilaiyaraaja	Harivarasanam award for 2020
Tony Joseph	12 th Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize

Ranks & Reports

1. Digital transactions in October: Top score for Fino Payments Bank

Fino Payments Bank (78) topped the monthly rankings by MEITY. SBI (68) and Bank of Maharashtra (67) are the only 2 PSBs that have shown 'good' performance in digital transactions. ICICI Bank and IDFC First Bank, Axis Bank & HSBC received good ratings.

Fino Payments Bank has touched 99.41% of annual target.

2. Railways operating ratio of 98.44 per cent in 2017-18, worst in last 10 years: CAG

According to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Rajiv Mehrishi, report the Indian Railways recorded its worst operating ratio in 10 years in 2017-18 at 98.44%. Operating ratio is the amount of money the national transporter spends to earn each rupee.

Lower the ratio, the healthier are railways' finances.

3. India ranks 5th in Global Climate Risk Index

According to a report released by Environment think tank, Germanwatch, India is the fifth most vulnerable country to climate change. India recorded the highest number of fatalities due to climate change in 2018.

Japan topped the list followed by the Philippines and Germany.

4. India along with 19 countries carries 85% malaria burden : WHO

According to the World malaria report 2019, released by the WHO, India along with 19 sub-Saharan Africa countries carried almost 85% of the global malaria burden. India showed a reduction in reported cases of around 51% compared to 2017.

World Health Organization (WHO) HQs-Geneva, Switzerland.

5. India ranks 73rd in UN index assessing e-commerce readiness

India has ranked 73rd out of 152 countries in UNs Conference on Trade and Development's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2019 that measures an economy's preparedness to support online shopping.

It has been topped by the Netherlands.

6. India has one of the highest unemployment rates in women : OECD

OECD Economic Survey of India found the country has the largest difference between employment rates of women and men among OECD nations at 52 percentage points. Sweden and Norway are best in the category with less than five percentage point difference.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

7. India moves from 130 to 129 in human development index: UNDP report

India inched up one spot to rank 129th out of 189 countries on the 2019 Human Development Index (HDI) released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Inequality and deprivation continue to be high in the country. Norway secured the 1st rank.

Switzerland & Ireland secured 2nd & 3rd ranks, respectively.

8. Abu Dhabi selected as world's leading sports tourism destination

Abu Dhabi has been selected as the world's leading premium Sports tourism Destination at the 26th edition of the World Travel Awards (WTA) being held in Muscat. This is the seventh time in a row that Abu Dhabi has been selected for this coveted award.

It was the 2019 West Asia's Business Tourism Destination.

9. India among top 10 countries with higher climate performance: Report

India ranked 9th in the Climate Change Performance Index released at the COP25 climate summit in Madrid. As none of the countries assessed is already on a path compatible with the Paris climate targets, the first 3 places of the ranking remain unoccupied.

Rankings: Sweden-4th, Denmark-5th, UK-7th and India-9th.

10. India Skills Report finds 46.21% of students employable

As per the report, about 46.21% students were found employable in 2019. It is an initiative of Wheebox, Taggd by PeopleStrong & CII with UNDP, AICTE & AIU. Maharashtra followed by TN & UP were topped. Mumbai & Hyderabad were the top 2 employable cities.

Female employability witnessed at 47% in 2019.

11. NFRA issues Audit Quality Review report for 2017-18 of IL&FS Financial Services Limited

The National Financial Reporting Authority has issued Audit Quality Review (AQR) report of the statutory audit for the year 2017-18 of IL&FS Financial Services Limited (IFIN). It is the first AQR report of NFRA since its constitution on October 1, 2018.

It was conducted under Section 132 of the Companies Act, 2013.

12. FM Nirmala Sitharaman among world's 100 most powerful women: Forbes

Forbes 2019 list of 'The World's 100 Most Powerful Women' has been topped by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, followed by European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde in the second spot & US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, ranked third.

Nirmala Sitharaman is ranked 34th in the list.

13. India slips to 112th place on gender gap: World Economic Forum

India has slipped four places to rank 112th globally in terms of gender gap amid widening disparity in terms of women's health and survival and economic participation -the two areas where the country is now ranked in the bottom-five. Iceland ranked No1.

Yemen is ranked the worst (153rd), while Iraq is 152nd.

14. India is world's third largest producer of scientific articles: US NSF Report

India has emerged as the world's 3rd largest publisher of science & engineering articles, according to the latest US National Science Foundation report. China, which accounts for 20.67% of all global publications in scientific articles, is at the top.

United States is at the second position.

15. IndiGo becomes 1st Indian carrier to operate 1,500 daily flights

Budget carrier IndiGo has become the first domestic carrier to operate 1,500 flights per day, a feat which is in line with its expansion strategy. The 1,500th flight was operated in Dec. With this, IndiGo now operates on an average one flight per minute.

IndiGo chief executive officer (CEO), Ronojoy Dutta.

16. FIFA rankings: India static at 108

The Indian men's football team remained static at 108th spot in the year-ending FIFA rankings. India, however, lost 11 places throughout the year. With 1187 total points, India is placed at 19th spot among Asian countries headed by Japan 28th.

Belgium, France & Brazil- 1st, 2nd & 3rd ranks respectively.

17. India ranks 47th out of 56 countries in housing price appreciation: Report

According to the Global House Price Index Q3 2019 of Knight Frank, India ranked 47th in the world in terms of appreciation in housing prices as rates grew by only 0.6% during July-Sep. India stood at 11th in the April-June quarter of 2019 in home prices.

Hungary leads the index during July-Sep followed by Luxembourg.

18. Total Forest & Tree Cover rises to 24.56% of the total geographical area: Report

Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change-Prakash Javadekar released the biennial "India State of Forest Report", published by Forest Survey of India. Total forest & tree cover rises to 24.56% of the total geographical area as per 16th ISFR.

Karnataka is the top state showing increase in forest cover.

Important Days

1. World AIDS Day: 1 December

World AIDS Day is celebrated around the world on December 1 each year. The commemoration is an important opportunity to recognize the essential role that communities have played in the AIDS response at the international, national and local levels

2019 World AIDS Day theme: Communities make the difference

2. National Pollution Control Day – December 2

National Pollution Control Day is observed in the memory of the victims of Bhopal Gas tragedy that occurred on 2nd Dec 1984. It aims to spread awareness about industrial pollutants and how they affect our natural resources including our air, water & soil.

3787 people died due to gas release as per the MP govt data.

3. International Day for the Abolition of Slavery - 2 December

The day was initiated by UN General Assembly on Dec 2. It focuses on eliminating present-day forms of slavery such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, child labour, forced marriage, & pressurized recruitment of children for use in armed rivalry

2004 -Intl Yr to remember struggle against Slavery & Abolition.

4. International Day of Persons with Disabilities - 3 December

The day aims to promote the rights & well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society & development. 2019 Theme is 'Promoting the participation of persons with disabilities & their leadership: taking action on the 2030 Development Agenda'.

It was proclaimed in 1992 by UN General Assembly resolution 47/3

5. Indian Navy Day : 4th December

Indian Navy Day is celebrated every day on 4th Dec. It marks the Indian Navy's Operation Trident that took place in the year 1971. The Indian Navy is the naval branch of the Indian Armed Forces and is led by the President of India as Commander-in-Chief.

Theme of Navy Day 2019-"Indian Navy – Silent, Strong and Swift."

6. International Volunteer Day (IVD) for Economic and Social Development: 5 December

IVD is an opportunity for us all to promote volunteerism, encourage governments to support volunteer efforts and recognize volunteer contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at local, national and international levels.

"Volunteer for an inclusive future" is theme for the day.

7. World Soil Day, December 5th

World Soil Day (WSD) is held annually on 5 December as a means to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and advocating for the sustainable management of soil resources. 5 December 2014 was observed as the first official World Soil Day.

"Stop soil erosion, Save our future" World Soil Day 2019 theme.

8. Nationwide Feedback Diwas observed to get stakeholders response to new GST returns

Nationwide GST Stakeholder Feedback Diwas for new GST was observed today. The aim of organizing this event is to get an on-the-spot response to the new GST Returns to be introduced from the 1st of April next year.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Chairman Pranab Kr Das

9. Armed Forces Flag Day: 7th of December

Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on 7th of December every year to honour the martyrs and Armed Forces personnel, who safeguard the motherland. The day is dedicated towards the collection of funds from people for the welfare of the Armed Forces personnel.

Army Chief, General Bipin Rawat

10. International Civil Aviation Day: 7 December

International Civil Aviation Day was established in 1994 as part of ICAO's 50th anniversary activities. Its purpose is to generate reinforce worldwide awareness of the importance of international civil aviation to the social & economic development of States

International Civil Aviation Organization HQs- Montreal, Canada

11. 9 December- International Anti-Corruption Day

International Anti-Corruption Day has been observed annually, on 9 December, since the passage of the UN Convention Against Corruption on 31 October 2003 to raise public awareness for anti-corruption. The Convention entered into force in December 2005.

"United Against Corruption" is the multiyear theme for the day.

12. 10 December: Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10th December-the day the UN General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The day is normally marked by cultural events & exhibitions dealing with human rights issues.

2019 Theme: Youth Standing Up for Human Rights.

13. 11 December: International Mountain Day

The increasing attention to the importance of mountains led the UN to declare 2002 as the UN International Year of Mountains. The first international Mountain Day was celebrated in 2003. From then on 11th of December is dedicated as the day for mountains.

2019 Theme: Mountains Matter for Youth.

14. 12 December: International Universal Health Coverage Day

On 12 December 2017, the UN proclaimed 12 December as International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day). It aims to raise awareness of the need for strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage with multi-stakeholder partners.

UN has commitments to help move the world closer to UHC by 2030.

15. 12 December: International Day of Neutrality

Recognizing that national policies of neutrality are aimed at promoting the use of preventive diplomacy, which is a core function of the United Nations, the UN General Assembly decided to declare 12th of December as the International Day of Neutrality.

UN Secretary General- Antonio Guterres.

16. Nation to celebrate Vijay Diwas today

The nation celebrated Vijay Diwas today to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in 1971 war. Rich tributes were paid to the martyrs who laid down their lives during the war. It resulted in subsequent secession of East Pakistan into Bangladesh.

Same day & event is commemorated in Bangladesh as Bijoy Dibos.

17. 18 December: International Migrants Day

The UN observance of International Migrants Day on 18th December focuses on the stories of social cohesion, which are as varied and unique as each of the 272 million migrants living new lives and building new communities in every corner of the globe.

International Migrants Day Theme- We Together.

18. 20 December: International Human Solidarity Day

On 22 December 2005, UN identified solidarity as one of the fundamental & universal values that should underlie relations between peoples in the 21st century, & in that regard decided to proclaim 20th of December as International Human Solidarity Day.

On 2002 UN established the World Solidarity Fund.

19. National Mathematics Day 2019 : 22nd December

December 22 is celebrated as India's National Mathematics Day (NMD). The day marks the birth anniversary of self-taught Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan and his contributions in the field of mathematics. Ramanujan was born on December 22, 1887.

Manmohan Singh declared the day as NMD on February 26, 2012.

20. 23 December: National Farmers Day

India celebrates National Farmers Day on 23rd December to commemorate the birth anniversary of the 5th Prime Minister of India-Choudhary Charan Singh. He had introduced many policies to improve the lives of the Indian farmers & he was a farmer's leader.

He served as PM between 28 July 1979 & 14 January 1980.

Date	Day	Theme
December 1	World AIDS Day	Communities make the difference
December 2	National Pollution Control Day	NA
December 2	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	NA
December 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	Promoting the participation of persons with disabilities and their leadership: taking action on the 2030 Development Agenda
December 4	Indian Navy Day	NA
December 5	International Volunteer Day (IVD) for Economic and Social Development	Volunteer for an inclusive future
December 5	World Soil Day	Stop soil erosion, Save our future
December 7	Armed Forces Flag Day	NA
December 7	International Civil Aviation Day	NA
December 9	International Anti-Corruption Day	United Against Corruption
December 10	Human Rights Day	Youth Standing Up for Human Rights
December 11	International Mountain Day	Mountains Matter for Youth
December 12	International Universal Health Coverage Day	NA
December 12	International Day of Neutrality	NA
December 18	International Migrants Day	We Together
December 20	International Human Solidarity Day	NA
December 22	National Mathematics Day	NA
December 23	National Farmers Day	NA

Summit & Conferences

1. UN Climate Change Conference to be held in Spain

UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) will be held Madrid under the Presidency of Chile from 2-13 Dec 2019. COP 25 is an important conference as countries prepare to move from pre-2020 period under Kyoto Protocol to post-2020 period under Paris Agreement.

Indian delegation will be led by Minister Prakash Javadekar.

2. Saudi Arabia takes over G20 Presidency from Japan

Saudi Arabia has taken over the G20 Presidency from Japan. It is the first Arab nation to assume the G20 presidency. The country will host world leaders for a global summit in its capital on 21-22 November in 2020.

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince - Mohammed bin Salman.

3. 13th South Asian Games (SAG) formally begins in Kathmandu

13th SAG has begun at Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu. SAG is being held until Dec 10 in 3 cities - Kathmandu, Pokhara & Janakpur. Athletes from Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, Bhutan & Sri Lanka will be competing in 26 different sports.

Vice President of Nepal - Nanda Bahadur Pun;

4. International Year of Plant Health 2020 Launch Event held at FAO Headquarters

The UN General Assembly in its 73rd session in December 2018 adopted a resolution, declaring 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). The IYPH launch event took place at Sheikh Zayed Center, FAO Headquarters.

Director-General FAO, Qu Dongyu, HQs-Rome, Italy.

5. NATO summit 2019 Watford, United Kingdom

NATO 2019 summit held in Watford, UK. NATO summits are a periodic opportunity for Heads of State and Heads of Government to meet and evaluate NATO's current strategies, evaluate the alliance's current position and brainstorm strategic direction.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) founded ,4 April 1949.

6. Human Library event organised in Mysuru

First event of Human Library, Mysuru Chapter 2, organised at Mysore Institute of Commerce & Arts. human Library is a concept which seeks to replace books with humans to generate greater human cohesion across various social, religious & ethnic diversities

Human Library is a Non-profit organisation in Denmark

7. Indian Railways organizes "Parivartan Sangosthi" in New Delhi

Indian Railways organized a 2-days conclave "Parivartan Sangosthi" in New Delhi for transforming and improving Indian Railways to make it world class and most modern by receiving suggestions from the officers of various Zonal Railways

Minister of State of Railways: Suresh C. Angadi

8. External Affairs Ministry to host 6th Indian Ocean Dialogue & Delhi Dialogue XI

External Affairs Ministry will host 6th Indian Ocean Dialogue & Delhi Dialogue XI in New Delhi on 13th & 14th of December on similar Indo-Pacific themes. Indian Ocean Dialogue theme-Indo-Pacific: Re-imagining the Indian Ocean through an Expanded Geography.

Delhi Dialogue XI theme- Advancing Partnership in Indo-Pacific.

9. 2 plus 2 India-US dialogue to be held in Washington

2nd India-US 2 Plus 2 Ministerial Dialogue will be held in Washington DC on December 18. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh & External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation. Both sides will exchange views on regional & global issues.

India-US 2 plus 2 Ministerial Dialogue was initiated in 2018.

10. 6th India-Maldives Joint Commission Meeting held in Delhi

The 6th India-Maldives Joint Commission Meeting, JCM was held in New Delhi. Foreign Minister of Maldives Abdulla Shahid, who is on a five-day visit to India co-chaired the meeting with External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar & three MoUs were signed

The JCM took place after a gap of over four years.

11. India to Host 36th International Geological Congress in March 2020

India is gearing up to host the 36th International Geological Congress (IGC) in the capital city New Delhi during the first week of March next year. The theme of the forthcoming conference is 'Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Development'

IGCs are global geoscientific events held once in four years.

12. Union ministers, CMs to join over 100 CEOs at WEF's 50th Annual Meeting in Davos

Union ministers Piyush Goyal & Mansukh Mandaviya along with 3 chief ministers -Amarinder Singh, Kamal Nath and B S Yeddyurappa -will join over 100 Indian CEOs in the Swiss ski resort town of Davos, Switzerland next month for the WEF's 50th annual meeting.

3,000 global leaders would converge in the meeting.

13. India gearing up to host World Dairy Summit in 2022

India is working on developing a smart backyard dairying model near Delhi to showcase it to the world at the World Dairy Summit, which the country will host in 2022 in New Delhi. The next is planned in September-October 2020 at Cape Town, South Africa.

In 2019, the event was held in Istanbul, Turkey.

Summit/Conference	Venue
UN Climate Change Conference (COP25)	Madrid, Spain
G20 Summit 2020	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
13th South Asian Games	Kathmandu, Nepal
13th South Asian Games	Watford, UK
Human Library Event	Mysuru
Parivartan Sangosthi Conclave	New Delhi
6th Indian Ocean Dialogue & Delhi Dialogue XI	New Delhi
2 plus 2 India-US dialogue	Washington, USA
6th India-Maldives Joint Commission Meeting	New Delhi
6th International Geological Congress	New Delhi
WEF's 50th Annual Meeting	Davos, Switzerland
World Dairy Summit in 2022	New Delhi
World Dairy Summit in 2020	Cape Town, South Africa

Science & Technology

1. World's 1st fully electric commercial aircraft takes inaugural test flight in Canada

World's 1st fully electric commercial aircraft took its inaugural test flight in Canada. Manufacturer, magniX designed the plane's motor and worked in partnership with Harbour Air. DHC-2 de Havilland Beaver seaplane was retrofitted with the electric motor.

The technology would mean significant cost savings for airlines.

2. Switzerland to be country partner at BioAsia2020

Switzerland will be the country partner at the 17th edition of BioAsia2020, to be held from 2020 February 17th-19th in Hyderabad, Telangana. Switzerland has placed itself as one of the most important stock exchanges for life science companies in Europe.

BioAsia2020 Theme- "Today for tomorrow".

3. ISRO to launch earth observation satellite, RISAT-2BR1

ISRO will launch its earth observation satellite, RISAT-2BR1 on PSLV-C48 from the First Launch Pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. It is a Radar imaging earth observation satellite weighing about 628 kg & will be placed into an orbit of 576 km.

PSLV-Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle.

4. Sterlite Technologies & IIT Madras sign pact for advancement of 5G

Sterlite Technologies has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology Madras, for sponsoring a Chair Professorship in 5G technology. Both will partner for research and advancements in the 5G communications technology.

Sterlite Technologies is a global data networks innovator.

5. International Astronomical Union names new star 'Sharjah'

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) announced the names of the newly discovered stars and planets, where the name "Sharjah" was chosen for a star with "Barjeel" being the name of one of its planets in a conference held in French capital, Paris.

IAU is headquartered at Paris, France.

6. CBERS-4A: China-Brazil Satellite Launched to Monitor Amazon Rainforest

An Earth observation satellite jointly developed by China & Brazil was launched under a bilateral programme, seen as a template for broader cooperation among BRICS nations. China-Brazil Earth Resource Satellite-4A was launched on a Long March-4B rocket.

CBERS-4A was launched from the Chinese province of Shanxi.

7. Scientists find World's oldest Fossil forest

Scientists have discovered the world's oldest known fossil forest in a sandstone quarry in New York state. The forest found in the town of Cairo, would have spanned from New York to Pennsylvania and beyond, and has been dated to about 386m years old.

It is one of only 3 known fossil forests dating to this period.

8. Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) launches Rohini (RH) 200 sounding rocket

A Rohini (RH) 200 sounding rocket shot off from Thumba. Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre used the sounding rocket mission to study changes in the earth's upper atmosphere during the eclipse. Sounding rockets have been lifting off from Thumba since the 1960s.

S Somnath, Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)

9. ISRO is planning to launch satellite Aditya to study Sun

PM Modi has said that ISRO is planning to launch a satellite called Aditya to study the sun. Aditya-L1 project will enable a comprehensive understanding of the dynamical processes of the sun & address some of the outstanding problems in solar physics.

ISRO has an astronomical satellite called ASTROSAT.

10. Russia deploys its first Avangard Hypersonic missile system

Russia's 1st regiment of Avangard hypersonic missiles has been launched. On 26 November Russia allowed US to inspect the missile under the 2010 New START treaty rules, an agreement that seeks to reduce the number of strategic nuclear missile launchers.

Avangard can carry a nuclear weapon of up to two megatons.

11. China launches its largest carrier rocket Long March-5

The Long March-5 rocket, China's largest carrier rocket, was successfully launched from south China's Hainan Province. It carried the Shijian-20 technological experiment satellite-the heaviest and most advanced communications satellite in the country.

The satellite was made by the China Academy of Space Technology.

12. Bengaluru's University of Agricultural Sciences to host Indian Science Congress

University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru is gearing up to host the 107th Indian Science Congress from 3rd to 7th of January. PM Modi will inaugurate the conference to be attended by over 15,000 delegates. General President of the ISCA -K S Rangappa.

ISCA has introduced a mobile app called "ISC 2020 UASB".

Defence

1. Indo Sri Lanka joint exercise MITRA SHAKTI commences

7th edition of Ex MITRA SHAKTI commenced at Aundh Military Station, Pune. It aims at enhancing interoperability & operational efficiency amongst armies of India & Sri Lanka. It is designed for incorporating current dynamics of UN peacekeeping operations.

Navy exercise b/w India & Sri Lanka is SLINEX.

2. 8th India-China joint training Hand-in-Hand 2019

8th edition of the India-China joint training exercise – "Hand-in-Hand 2019" commenced at Umroi in Meghalaya. 14 days joint exercise is aimed at practicing joint planning & conducting counter-terror operations in semi-urban terrain

Chief of the Army Staff: Bipin Rawat

3. UAE, US joint military exercise 'Iron Union 12' commences

The joint military exercise between UAE and the United States-'Iron Union 12' commenced. It is aimed at enhancing combat efficiency and tactical expertise. The UAE Armed Forces often stage exercises with friendly countries as part of its training plans.

The drill will be held in the capital city-Abu Dhabi.

4. Military Literature Festival organised in Chandigarh

The third edition of coveted Military Literature Festival (MLF) was held from 13 to 15 December 2019 at UT Lake Club, in the UT of Chandigarh. The military literature extravaganza was inaugurated by Punjab Governor and UT Administrator VP Singh Badnore.

State govt had already released Rs 1.5 Cr for organising MLF.

5. Apharan: Indian Navy's largest anti-hijacking exercise

Indian Navy in collaboration with Indian Coast Guard, Cochin Port Trust & all other concerned stakeholders, conducted a large-scale anti-hijacking exercise-Apharan off the Port of Kochi to streamline the response mechanism against anti-national elements.

It included 12 ships and helicopters of Cochin Port trust.

6. Upgraded version of Pinaka guided rocket system & QR-SAM successfully test fired

India had successfully test-fired 2 missiles- upgraded version of Pinaka guided rocket system and all-weather tracked-chassis QR-SAM. Pinaka system has a maximum range of 75 km for Mark-II variant and can fire a salvo of 12 rockets in less than 45 seconds.

QR-SAM- Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile.

7. Ethiopia launches first satellite into space

Ethiopia launched its first satellite into space. The satellite was designed by Chinese & Ethiopian engineers. The satellite will be used for weather forecast & crop monitoring. The African Union adopted a policy on African space development in 2017.

Ethiopia: President - Sahle-Work Zewde; Capital – Addis Ababa.

8. 5th edition of ARTECH to be held in New Delhi

The 5th edition of ARTECH being organised by Indian Army on 'Technologies for Non-Contact Warfare' will be held on 23 December 2019 in Delhi. The ARTECH seminar sets the agenda for focus areas of harvesting indigenous capabilities in the Defence sector.

ARTECH was launched in the year 2016.

9. Space Force: Trump officially launches new US military service

President Donald Trump has officially funded a Pentagon force focused on warfare in space - the US Space Force. The new military service, the 1st in more than 70 years, falls under the US Air Force. It will be funded by an initial \$40mn for the first year.

It will protect the US communication & surveillance satellites.

10. Govt sets up Dept of Military Affairs to be headed by Chief of Defence Staff

Cabinet cleared the appointment of India's 1st Chief of Defence Staff & will head the dept of military powers in defence ministry. CDS will direct the 3 service chiefs & create new theatre commands for an optimal military response in case of hostilities.

CDS was recommended by K Subrahmanyam (Kargil Review Committee).

11. China, Russia & Iran to hold joint naval drills

China, Russia and Iran will hold joint naval drills in Gulf of Oman, at a time of heightened tensions since the United States withdrew from a landmark nuclear deal with Tehran. Exercise aims to deepen cooperation between the navies of the 3 countries.

Exercise is set to take place from December 27 to 30.

12. Maximum age limit for Chief of Defence Staff put at 65

The government has amended rules putting the maximum age limit of 65 years for the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to serve in the post. The changes have been made in the Army Rules, 1954. the Cabinet Committee on Security approved the creation of the CDS.

CDS will be principal military adviser to the defence minister.

Books & Authors

1. Tony Joseph's 'Early Indians' Wins 2019 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize

English author Tony Joseph has won the 12th 'Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize' for his 2018 book, *Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From*. Instituted in 2008, the award carries a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh and a trophy.

Last year, the prize was awarded to Sujatha Gidla.

2. Telangana CM releases book on Kaleswaram project

Telangana Chief Minister K.Chandrasekhar Rao released a book in Telugu on 'Kaleswaram Project — Telangana's chariot of Progress' authored by Officer on Special Duty, Irrigation to the Chief Minister, Sridhar Rao Deshpande.

Telangana Governor-Tamilisai Soundararajan

3. Vice President releases the book "Turbulence and Triumph – The Modi Years"

Vice President released the book titled "Turbulence and Triumph – The Modi Years" written by Rahul Agarwal and Bharti S Pradhan in New Delhi. The book is about the life journey of PM Narendra Modi from his days as a young boy till becoming the PM of India.

Book is published by Om Books International.

4. HRD Minister launches five documents developed by UGC

HRD Minister launched 5 documents developed by UGC covering the 5 verticals of Quality Mandate. It cover evaluation reforms, eco-friendly & sustainable university campuses, human values & professional ethics, faculty induction & academic research integrity.

Human Resource Development Minister- Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.

Miscellaneous

1. 20th Edition of Hornbill Festival begins in Nagaland

The Hornbill Festival has begun at Naga Heritage Kisama in Nagaland. It is the 20th edition of the festival. It is an annual tourism promotional event to showcase the state's traditional & rich cultural heritage in all its ethnicity, diversity & grandeur.

Nagaland: Chief Minister - Neiphiu Rio; Governor – RN Ravi.

2. Global Migration Film Festival (GMFF) organised in Dhaka

The Global Migration Film Festival was organized in Dhaka. A day-long festival screened 15 films on the theme of migration. It was organized by International Organisation of Migrants & Dhaka University Film Society with the support of the European Union.

The Global Migration Film Festival was started in 2016.

3. RBI Monetary Policy: Interest rates unchanged, GDP growth forecast lowered

RBI released its fifth bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2019-20 in which the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.15% .RBI lowered its real GDP growth forecast for 2019-20 from 6.1% to 5 %.

RBI has cut repo rate by 135 basis points so far.

4. MP govt approves Rs 156-crore development plan for Omkareshwar

Madhya Pradesh government sanctioned a sum of 156 crore rupees for development of Omkareshwar, a famous pilgrimage centre which houses one of the 12 Jyotirlinga shrines of Lord Shiva.

Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Kamal Nath

5. HDFC Bank crosses \$100 bn market cap in intraday trading

HDFC Bank Ltd crossed \$100 bn market capitalization in intraday trading, becoming only the 3rd company in the country. HDFC Bank ranks 26th among most valued banks & financial companies that have a market capitalization of more than \$100 bn.

CEO of HDFC Bank - Aditya Puri

Obituary

1. Actress Shelley Morrison, Will & Grace's Rosario, passed away at 83

Shelley Morrison, best known as Will & Grace's Rosario Salazar, has died at the age of 83. In addition to appearing in Will & Grace, Morrison was featured in a wide variety of TV and film roles, including parts in The Flying Nun, Troop Beverly Hills etc.

She was best known for playing Sister Sixto on "The Flying Nun"

2. 'Star Trek' writer DC Fontana passes away at 80

Dorothy Catherine "DC" Fontana, the first female writer for 'Star Trek', passed away. She was 80. She penned numerous stories for the original 'Star Trek' TV series, and developed one of its signature characters, Spock.

She also worked on the 'Star Trek' animated series.

3. Actor Ron Leibman passed away at the age of 82

Ron Leibman, an acclaimed film, television and Tony-winning actor, has died, at the age of 82 battling pneumonia. In 1993, Leibman won a Tony Award for best actor in a play for his role as Roy Cohn & starred as Dr. Leonard Green in TV sitcom "Friends"

Tony Award, recognizes excellence in live Broadway theatre.

4. Star Trek: Deep Space Nine actor Rene Auberjonois dies at 79

Rene Auberjonois, a prolific actor best known for his roles on the TV shows Benson & Star Trek: Deep Space Nine & his part in the 1970 film M.A.S.H. playing Father Mulcahy, has died. He was 79. He died of metastatic lung cancer at his home in Los Angeles.

Much of his later career was spent doing voices for animation.

5. Paul Volcker, former Fed chairman who fought inflation, dies at 92

Paul Volcker, the former chairman of the Federal Reserve known for his battles against inflation in the late 1970s and early 1980s, passed away at the age of 92. He passed away at his home in New York, USA from complications related to his prostate cancer.

He served as key financial adviser to Obama starting from 2009.

6. Veteran Telugu writer, film personality Gollapudi passes away

Veteran Telugu writer, columnist and film personality, Gollapudi Maruti Rao has passed away. He was 80. He served as the sub-editor of Andhra Prabha. He was referred to as 'gedda mukku pantulu'. He acted in several Telugu films as a supporting actor.

Biswabhusan Harichandan is the Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

7. Veteran actor Shriram Lagoo passes away in Pune at 92

Veteran actor Shriram Lagoo passed away in Pune, Maharashtra. The 92-year old actor died due to age-related ailments. Lagoo played important role in the growth of theatre movement in Maharashtra in the post-Independence era. He was also a social activist.

Lagoo was also an ENT surgeon.

8. Former Kerala Minister Thomas Chandy passes away

Nationalist Congress Party's Kerala State President and former Minister Thomas Chandy passed away in Kochi due to cancer. He was the Member of Legislative Assembly from Kuttanad constituency. He was 72.

Kerala: CM - Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor - Arif Mohammad Khan.

9. Personal computer CPU pioneer Chuck Peddle dies at 82

Chuck Peddle, one of the most important engineers of the early home computing era, has died at the age of 82. He's best known as the lead designer for MOS Technology's 6502, a low-cost processor (just \$25 in 1975).

Peddle left the MOS team in 1980

10. Writer and critic LS Sheshagiri Rao passed away

Kannada writer and critic L.S. Sheshagiri Rao, referred to as LSS in literary circles, passed away at 94 following age-related ailments. He is known for his compiled English-Kannada dictionary. He won many honours, including Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award.

He was the first president of Kannada Pustaka Pradhikara.

11. Ram Dass, psychedelic drug pioneer, dies at home aged 88

Ram Dass, who in the 1960s joined Timothy Leary in promoting psychedelic drugs as the path to inner enlightenment before undergoing a spiritual rebirth he spelled out in the influential book "Be Here Now," died. He was 88 years old.

In 1978 Ram Dass co-founded the Seva Foundation.

12. Thumri exponent Vidushi Savita Devi passes away

Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist Vidushi Savita Devi has passed away at 80. She was considered a doyen in the field of classical music field on various semi-classical vocal forms, such as thumri, dadra, chaiti, kajri & tappa of the Banaras Gharana.

She authored biographical work on her mother 'Maa. Siddheshwari'

13. Renowned Hindi author Ganga Prasad passed away

Renowned Hindi author Ganga Prasad Vimal was killed in a road accident in Sri Lanka. Born in 1939 in Uttarkashi, Vimal wrote more than a dozen poetry collections, short story collections and novels. His last novel- 'Manushkhor' was published in 2013.

He received several Hindi literary awards.

14. Songwriter Allee Willis, who co-wrote 'Friends' theme song, dies at 72

Allee Willis, a songwriter whose work included the Broadway musical "The Color Purple" as well as the theme song from the TV show "Friends" & Earth, Wind & Fire's "September," died. She was 72. Willis was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2018.

She was nominated for an Emmy for the "Friends" theme song

15. Vikho-o Yhoshu: Nagaland Assembly Speaker passed away

Nagaland Legislative Assembly Speaker Vikho-o Yhoshu passed away at Mumbai hospital. He was 69. Yhoshu was diagnosed with lung cancer and was undergoing treatment. He was elected as the Speaker of the 13th Nagaland Legislative Assembly in March 2018.

Governor of Nagaland and Meghalaya- R N Ravi.

Obituary (Name)	Related field
Shelley Morrison	Actress
DC Fontana	Writer
Ron Leibman	Actor
Rene Auberjonois	Actor
Paul Volcker	Former chairman of the Federal Reserve
Gollapudi Maruti	Veteran Telugu writer and columnist
Shriram Lagoo	Actor
Thomas Chandy	Kerala Minister
Chuck Peddle	Personal computer CPU pioneer
L.S. Sheshagiri Rao	Kannada writer
Savita Devi	Vocalist
Ram Dass	Psychedelic drug pioneer
Vidushi Savita Devi	Hindustani classical vocalist
Ganga Prasad Vimal	Hindi author
Allee Willis	Songwriter

Person in news

1. Hari Mohan takes over as Chairman, Ordnance Factory Board

Hari Mohan took over the charge as Chairman, Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) w.e.f. December 01, 2019. He has contributed significantly in various positions in Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) Hardwar, Vehicle Factory Jabalpur, Engine Factory Avadi etc.

Ordnance Factory Board ,Headquarters: Kolkata

2. Lionel Messi Wins 2019 record sixth Ballon d'Or Prize

Lionel Messi won the record 6th Ballon d'Or award in Men's category. He defeated Virgil van Dijk & Cristiano Ronaldo to take the honours. It is his 1st Ballon d'Or since 2015. USA's Megan Rapinoe took women's prize. She succeeded Ada Hegerberg (Norway).

Rapinoe won Golden Boot for top scorer with six goals.

3. Joaquin Phoenix named 2019 PETA 'Person of the Year'

Joaquin Phoenix has been named 2019 'Person of the Year'. He recently appeared in PETA's "We Are All Animals" billboards in Times Square and on Sunset Billboard as he promoted legislation to ban travelling wild-animal circuses.

PETA -People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

4. Roger Federer's face to be minted on Swiss coin

38-year-old Roger Federer will become the first living person in Switzerland to have a coin minted in his honour. The Federal Mint, Swissmint, has created a 20-franc silver coin bearing Federer's image. He has won 103 tour-level titles.

Federer finished No. 3 in the 2019 year-end standings.

5. CSB Bank re-appoints Rajendran Chinna Veerappan as MD & CEO

The Kerala based CSB Bank, formerly known as Catholic Syrian Bank, re-appointed Rajendran Chinna Veerappan as Managing Director & CEO of the Bank. He has been on CSB board since November 2016 & have been re-appointed for another 3 years.

CSB, 98-yr old bank—one of the oldest private lenders in India.

6. Ripu Daman Bevli announced as Plogging Ambassador of India on 50th Fit India Plogging Run

Kiren Rijiju felicitated Ripu Daman Bevli, popularly known as the Plogman of India and named him the Plogging Ambassador of India. The minister also launched the nation-wide Plogging Ambassador Mission. Bevli, started plogging in 2017.

Plog Run is a unique way of picking up garbage while jogging.

7. Davi Kopenawa wins Alternate Nobel Prize for protecting the Amazon rainforest

Yanomami shaman Davi Kopenawa, the "Dalai Lama of the Rainforest," has received this year's Right Livelihood Award, also known as the "Alternative Nobel Prize" at Stockholm, Sweden. He lives in his community, Watoriki practising shamanism.

Prize, established in 1980 by German-Swedish Jakob von Uexkull.

8. Former J&K governor advisor K Vijay Kumar appointed to MHA

Former advisor to the Governor of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, K. Vijay Kumar, has been appointed as a senior security advisor in the Union Home Ministry headed by Amit Shah. He will be in the position for a period of one year.

J&K LG- Girish Chandra Murmu.

9. Axis Bank CFO Jairam Sridharan resigns

Axis Bank's group executive and chief financial officer (CFO) Jairam Sridharan has resigned. He joined Axis Bank in June 2010 from Capital One Financial, a consumer bank based in Richmond, VA (USA). He earlier worked with ICICI Bank.

Amitabh Chaudhry, MD & CEO, Axis Bank

10. Vishal Sikka joins Oracle's board of directors

Former Infosys CEO Vishal Sikka, who recently launched his AI startup Vianai Systems, has been nominated to the board of directors of global technology major Oracle. Before starting Vianai, Sikka was a top executive at SAP and the CEO of Infosys.

Oracle CEO -Safrat Catz, chairman and CTO Larry Ellison.

11. Sushil Modi replaces Sitharaman as head of GoM on IGST settlement

Sushil Modi will be the convener of a Group of Ministers on Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) replacing Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The GoM will deliberate on IGST issues of the states and submit its recommendations to Sitharaman.

Union Finance Minister is the chairperson of the GST Council.

12. Actor Suniel Shetty appointed NADA ambassador

Actor Suniel Shetty has been appointed as the brand ambassador of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) in New Delhi and the country's anti-doping body is hoping his celebrity status helps its efforts to clean up sports in the country from the menace.

NADA director general Navin Agarwal

13. Greta Thunberg: TIME Magazine's 'Person of the Year'

Greta Thunberg, who became the voice of conscience for a generation facing the climate change emergency, was announced as the TIME magazine's 2019 Person of the Year. Thunberg first hit the headlines for her solo strike in Sweden against global warming.

She is the Swedish Teen Climate Activist.

14. Portuguese PM Antonio Costa to visit India

Portugal PM, Antonio Costa will be on a two-day visit to India from Dec. 19-20. He will attend the second meeting of the Organising Committee on the celebrations for the 150th Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, presided over by President Ram Nath Kovind.

Portugal Capital – Lisbon, Currency -Euro.

15. Kuldeep Yadav becomes first Indian to bag two international hat-tricks

Wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav became the first India player to claim two hat-tricks in international cricket, joining an elite band that includes pace legend Pakistan's Wasim Akram & Saqlain Mushtaq, Sri Lankan Chaminda Vaas & New Zealand's Trent Boult.

Lasith Malinga is the only bowler to take three hat-tricks.

16. Vernon Philander to retire after England Test series

Vernon Philander, 34 the South Africa allrounder, has announced his impending retirement from international cricket. The upcoming Test series against England will be his final outing for his country, bringing to a close a career that began in 2007.

He has taken more than 200 wickets in his 60 Tests to date.

17. ICC Women's rankings: Radha remains second

In ICC women's Cricket rankings, Left-arm spinner Radha Yadav was ranked at the 2nd spot. Among the batters, Jemimah Rodrigues continued to occupy the 4th spot, while Smriti Mandhana & Harmanpreet Kaur remained at the 7th & 9th positions respectively.

India stands at 4th position in the Women's T20I Team Ranking.

18. Shadab Jakati, former Goa, IPL cricketer, announces retirement

Goa spinner Shadab Jakati, who also played in the cash-rich Indian Premier League, retired from all forms of cricket. He was part of teams like Chennai Super Kings, now defunct Gujarat Lions and Royal Challengers Bangalore.

He had scalped 275 wickets from 92 first-class matches.

19. NASA Astronaut Christina Koch creates record for longest single spaceflight by woman

Christina Koch creates a record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman, surpassing the earlier record of Peggy Whitson-288 days in space. When Christina arrives back on Earth in February 2020, she will have spent more than 300 days in space.

She is onboarding the Space Station since 14th March 2019.

Insurance

1. TCS becomes first Tata entity to extend medical cover benefits to LGBT employees

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), has included its health insurance policy to cover employees involved in a same-sex relationship. Under the new policy, up to 50% of the cost of sex/gender reassignment surgery (max. of Rs 2 Lc) will be covered by insurance.

Rajesh Gopinathan, CEO & MD of Tata Consultancy Services.

2. RBI tells banks to cap stake in insurance companies at 30%

The Reserve Bank of India has asked lenders to cut their stakes in insurers to 30%, as the banking regulator attempts to shield banks from risks arising out of their non-banking businesses and steer focus to boosting credit growth in a slowing economy.

ICICI Bank owns 52.87% in ICICI Prudential Life Insurance.

3. Kotak Life Launches Digital campaign highlighting the Importance of 'Complete Life Insurance'

Kotak Life launched new digital campaign, highlighting the importance of a 'complete' life insurance plan. Kotak Life's #PooraPlan provides complete family protection that not only covers Life but also Critical Illnesses & Disabilities of the insured.

Mr. G Murlidhar, MD, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Ltd.

India & World

1. India, Germany ink pact for Rs 1,958 crore finance to develop energy-efficient housing programme

India has secured a USD 277 million (about Rs 1,900 crore) loan from Germany to establish an energy-efficient housing programme in the country. The housing programme loan agreement has been signed between State Bank of India & German development bank KfW.

Programme is part of the Indo-German Development Co-operation.

Environment

1. Govt forms team to certify facilities of solar power equipment makers

India has set up a team to certify all solar power generation equipment makers who want to do business in the world's largest green energy market. Move aims to boost domestic manufacturing & protect its domestic companies from cheap & sub-standard imports.

MoS (I/C) New and Renewable Energy- R. K. Singh.

Apps & Portals

1. India Design Council launches two Initiatives to promote Design Education & Standards

India Design Council launched CDI & Design Education Quality Mark in New Delhi. It will help to address the 5 challenges of scale, quality of design, quality of education for design, raising the priority for design in industry & design for public purpose.

CDI-Chartered Designs of India.

2. Prez Kovind releases mobile app of Red Cross Society of India

President Ram Nath Kovind released the mobile app of the Red Cross Society of India in Hyderabad, Telangana. Developed by the Telangana Centre for Good Governance in less than 3 months, app helps for the easy access to blood bank and Red Cross membership. Telangana Chief Minister-K Chandra Sekhar Rao.

3. NPCI offers recharge option for FASTag through BHIM UPI

National Payments Corporation of India said that customers can recharge FASTags through any BHIM UPI enabled mobile app. FASTag, by the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) has been made mandatory for toll payment in the country from 15th December.

FASTag is a reloadable tag fixed on the windscreen of a vehicle.

4. MyGov reaches 1 crore registered users

Indian Central government's citizen engagement platform - MyGov has reached one crore registered users. Five years ago, on July 26, 2014, @mygovindia began its journey with a vision to offer a platform for the voice and views of the people of India.

MyGov has emerged as a vibrant centre for ideas and insights.

5. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launches DefExpo 2020 mobile app

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched the mobile app of the forthcoming DefExpo 2020. Department of Defence Production under the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has developed the app, with the aim to engage with the visitors as well as the exhibitors.

DefExpo 2020 will be held at Lucknow, UP on February 5-8.

Acquisitions & Mergers

1. CCI approves stake buy in SBI General Insurance by Napean Opportunities, Honey Wheat

Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved acquisition of shares in SBI General Insurance by Napean Opportunities(NO) LLP & Honey Wheat. Transaction involves acquisition of 16.01 & 9.99 % paid-up share capital NO LLP & Honey Wheat respectively.

CCI was established under the Competition Act, 2002.

2. ArcelorMittal, Nippon Steel complete acquisition of Essar Steel

ArcelorMittal completed the acquisition of Essar Steel India Limited (ESIL), and simultaneously established a joint venture with Nippon Steel Corporation (Nippon Steel), called ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Limited which will own and operate ESIL. Dilip Oommen has been appointed AM/NS India's CEO.

3. Mastercard acquires RiskRecon to enhance cybersecurity capabilities

Mastercard entered into an agreement to acquire RiskRecon to support companies in protecting their cyber systems and infrastructure. RiskRecon will design the cyber solutions to help financial institutions, merchants & govt secure their digital assets. Ajay Bhalla - President of cyber and intelligence for Mastercard

Important Static and Current info-

State	Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy	Biswa Bhushan Harichandan
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Brigadier BD Mishra (retd)
Assam	Dispur	Sarabananda Sonowal	Jagdish Mukhi
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Bhupesh Baghel	Anusuiya Uikey
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	S.P Malik
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Devvrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Satyadev Narayan Arya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Jai Ram Thakur	Bandaru Dattatraya
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	Draupadi Murmu
Karnataka	Bengaluru	B S Yediyurappa	Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Kamal Nath	Lalji Tandon
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Uddhav Thackeray	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	Padmanabha Balkrishna Acharya (Add. Charge)
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Sangma	RN Ravi (Additional Charge)
Mizoram	Aizawl	Pu Zoramthanga	P S Sreedharan Pillai
Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	RN Ravi
Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Chandigarh	Amarinder Singh	V P Singh Badnore
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	Gangtok	Prem Singh Tamang(PS Golay)	Ganga Prasad
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Edappadi K. Palaniswami	Banwarilal Purohit
Telangana	Hyderabad	K. Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
Tripura	Agartala	Biplab Kumar Deb	Ramesh Bais
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Adityanath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Trivendra Singh Rawat	Baby Rani Maurya
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar

Complete List of Union Ministers

Union Minister	Portfolio	Constituency
Narendra Modi	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions	Varanasi, UP
Rajnath Singh	Ministry of Defence	Lucknow, UP
Amit Shah	Ministry of Home Affairs	Gandhinagar, Gujarat
Nitin Gadkari	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways & Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises	Nagpur, Maharashtra
DV Sadananda Gowda	Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers	Bangalore North, Karnataka
Nirmala Sitharaman	Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Corporate Affairs	Rajya Sabha
Ram Vilas Paswan	Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution	NA
Narendra Singh Tomar	Ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare, Ministry of Rural Development & Ministry of Panchayati Raj	Morena, M.P
Ravi Shankar Prasad	Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of communications & Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Patna Sahib, Bihar
Harsimrat Kaur Badal	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	Bathinda, Punjab
Thaawar Chand Gehlot	Ministry of Social justice and empowerment	Rajya Sabha(M.P)
Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Ministry of External Affairs	Rajya Sabha (Gujarat)
Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	Ministry of Human Resource Development	Haridwar, Uttarakhand
Arjun Munda	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Khunti, Jharkhand
Smriti Zubin Irani	Ministry of Women and child Development & Ministry of Textiles	Amethi, UP
Dr Harsh Vardhan	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Science and Technology & Ministry of Earth Sciences	Chandni Chowk, Delhi
Prakash Javadekar	Ministry of environment, forest and climate change & Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise	Rajya Sabha(M.P)
Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Railways & Ministry of Commerce and Industry	Rajya Sabha(Maharashtra)
Dharmendra Pradhan	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Ministry of Steel	Rajya Sabha(M.P)
Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Ministry of Minority Affairs	Rajya Sabha(Jharkhand)
Pralhad Joshi	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of coal & Ministry of Mines	Dharwad, Karnataka
Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	Chandauli, UP
Giriraj Singh	Ministry of Animal Husbandry, dairying and fisheries	Begusarai, Bihar

FREE Ebooks

[Download Now](#)

Current Affairs

[Explore Now](#)

FREE MOCK TESTS + TOPIC TESTS + SECTIONAL TESTS

For Banking, Insurance, SSC & Railways Exams

[Web](#)

[APP](#)

BLOG

Your one-stop destination
for all exam related
information & preparation
resources.

[Explore Now](#)

FORUM

Interact with peers & experts,
exchange scores
& improve your preparation.

[Explore Now](#)

