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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Qatar Withdraws From OPEC

Qatar will now focus on its liquefied natural gas production.. Qatar has been in OPEC for 57 years. The decision came amid the ongoing diplomatic and economic blockade imposed on the country by its Persian Gulf neighbours and several Arab states.

OPEC : it is an intergovernmental organization having 14 nations as its members (after withdrawal of Qatar). It was founded in 1960 in Baghdad. It is headquartered in Vienna (Austria).

2. US, Israel Quit UNESCO Citing Bias against Israel.

-America has demanded fundamental reform in UNESCO, which was co-founded by it after World War II to foster peace. Israel joined the agency in 1949.

3. France Introduced GAFA Tax On Global Internet, Technology Firm

- “GAFA tax” -- named after **Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon** -- to ensure the global giants pay a fair share of taxes on their massive business operations in Europe.

4. U.S. President Donald Trump Signs Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA), Into Law

- According to the White House, the act establishes a multifaceted U.S. strategy to increase **U.S. security, economic interests, and values** in the **Indo-Pacific region**. Specifically, the ARIA will authorize **\$1.5 billion** in spending for a range of U.S. programs in **East and Southeast Asia** and develop a long-term strategic vision and a comprehensive, multifaceted, and principled United States policy for the Indo-Pacific region, and for other purposes.

5. Arunima Sinha Becomes World's 1st Female Amputee To Scale Antarctica's Highest Peak - Mount Vinson -Apart from Mount Everest, the 30-year-old has climbed the highest peaks of **five continents** and plans to do so in all seven.

6. Sri Lanka's Central Bank Gets USD 400 Million Swap From RBI

Sri Lanka's Central Bank announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has agreed to provide USD 400 million under a swap arrangement to boost the island nation's reserves. The RBI has agreed to provide the funds under its **SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Swap Facility**.

7. MEA Sushma Swaraj On 2 Day Visit To Uzbekistan

She is in Samarkand for **the First India-Central Asia Dialogue** which she will co-chair with Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov..

8. Macedonia Renamed As 'The Republic Of Northern Macedonia'

The Parliament of Macedonia has passed the resolution to amend the constitution of the country to rename it as **the Republic of Northern Macedonia**.

The name change will help resolve a decades-long dispute with neighboring **Greece** opening the way for **Skopje** (Capital of Macedonia) to join **NATO and the European Union**.

9. Palestine Takes chairmanship of the UN's Group G77

Palestine took the chairmanship of the group from Egypt for 2019.

(The G77 group was originally founded by 77 members in 1964 but has expanded to 134 mainly developing nations).

10. Nepal's Central Bank (Nepal Rashtra Bank)Announces Ban of Indian Notes Above Rs100

11. Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven Relected For Second four-year Term

12. Rio de Janeiro Named As 1st World Capital of Architecture for 2020



The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has named the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro as the World Capital of Architecture for 2020.

13. Arab Economic And Social Development Summit Held In Beirut

The Arab Economic and Social Development Summit held in Lebanon's capital Beirut.

14. WEF Annual Meet Begins in Switzerland

The World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meet had begun in Davos, Switzerland.
-Theme- 'Globalization 4.0: Shaping a Global Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution'.

15. Andry Rajoelina Sworn In As Madagascar President

16. China's Economy Grew At 6.6% In 2018, Slowest Rate In 3 Decades

(Currency of china : Renminbi)

17. Venezuela Breaks Off Diplomatic Ties With The US

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has announced that he is breaking off diplomatic ties with the United States after his American counterpart Donald Trump recognized Opposition leader Juan Guaido as the South American country's interim President.

18. Sugarcane Juice Declared As National Drink Of Pakistan

- The Pakistan government declared sugarcane juice as the "national drink" of the country. They came at this decision after asking People's opinion in twitter to choose one among orange, carrot and sugarcane.

19. UAE, Saudi Central Banks Launch Common Digital Currency Called 'Aber'

-The central banks of the UAE and Saudi Arabia have launched a common digital currency called "Aber", which will be used in financial settlements between the two countries through Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers technologies.

NATIONAL NEWS

1. 100% Houses in 25 States Electrified Under Saubhagya Yojana

The country achieved yet another milestone in the power sector with the completion of **electrification in 100% households in 25 states** at year end. Now, only about 10.48 lakh households are left to be electrified in 4 states - **Assam, Rajasthan, Meghalaya and Chhattisgarh.**

These states are also taking all concerted efforts to achieve, at the earliest, saturation of household electrification.

The central government launched 'Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana' (Saubhagya) in September 2017 to achieve the goal of universal household electrification in the country by 31 March, 2019.

2. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set up an expert committee under former Sebi chairman U.K. Sinha to suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSME sector.

3. Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair Declared As Authorized Immigration Check Post for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers. This decision of the Union Government will open up the Port Blair Airport for direct international flight and immigration facilities.

4. Centre Approves Renaming Of Allahabad As Prayagraj

(Agartala Airport renamed as Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore Airport.

British-era railway station Robertsgang renamed as Sonbhadra.
Iconic Mughalsarai junction renamed after Deen Dayal Upadhyay.
Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in Mumbai renamed as Chhatrapati Shivaji 'Maharaj'
International Airport).

5. Parliament Passes Right Of Children To Free And Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018 that seeks to do away with the no-detention policy in schools. The legislation is significant as it brings accountability in the elementary education system. The Bill seeks to amend the Right to Education (RTE) Act to abolish the "no-detention" policy in schools. Under the current provisions of the Act, no student can be detained (fail) up to class VIII.

6. Parliament Passes National Council For Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018

The Bill seeks to amend the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Act, 1993. The bill aims to grant retrospective recognition to Central and State institutions which had conducted teacher education courses without approval by the Council. This will ensure that the future of about 17 thousand students having degrees from such institutions is secured.

7: Government Launches 'Swachh Survekshan 2019'

-The Swachh Survekshan 2019 aims to evaluate the achievements in the cleanliness level in **urban areas** of the country. It is launched as a part of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'.
(The survey will cover 40 crore people across over 4000 towns and cities.
Swachh Survekshan 2019, completely digital and paperless survey, will be completed in a record time of 28 days).

8: 6 Monuments Declared Of National Importance In 2018 By ASI

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) declared 6 monuments as 'protected and of national importance' under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, in 2018. These sites are:

- 125-year-old Old High Court Building in Nagpur, Maharashtra,
- The Group of Temples in Ranipur Jharail in Bolangir district of Odisha,
- 2 Mughal era monuments in Agra- Haveli of Agha Khan and Hathi Khana,
- The Neemrana Baori in Alwar district of Rajasthan,
- The Vishnu Temple in Kotali, Pithoragarh district in Uttarakhand.

9: New Delhi World Book Fair Begins at Pragati Maidan.

The theme of this year is 'Readers with Special Needs'.

10: Indian Panorama Film Festival Begins at Siri Fort Auditorium In New Delhi

11: NGT Imposes Rs 100 Cr Fine On Meghalaya Govt for its failure to curb illegal coal mining in the state.

12: Vijay Mallya First Tycoon To Be Named "Fugitive Economic Offender"

Vijay Mallya became the first tycoon to be charged under a new anti-fraud law, with a court in Mumbai naming him as an offender under the **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018**.

-According to the new law, a fugitive economic offender is a person against whom an arrest warrant has been issued for his or her involvement in economic offenses involving at least Rs. 100 crore or more and has left India to avoid prosecution.

13. Cabinet Approves 10% Job Quota For 'Economically Weaker' Upper Castes

Ahead of the General Elections this year, the government has announced reservation in jobs for those belonging to the upper castes and earning less than Rs 8 lakh per year. A bill to amend Article 15 and 16 of the constitution will be moved in Parliament to this effect.

14. AAI Signs MoU With SAMEER For Boosting Communication



Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed MoU with Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER) for joint research programs in the field of Communication Navigation and Surveillance (CNS).

15. Norwegian PM Erna Solberg In India On 3-Day Visit

She will participate in the Indo-Norwegian Business Conference.

The Norwegian Prime Minister will deliver the Inaugural address at the Raisina Dialogue.

16. HRD Ministry Constitutes Task Force To Look into Suicides of JNV Students

The Union Human Resource Development Ministry constituted a task force to look into the issues of suicides of the students in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas. The task force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Psychiatrist, Dr Jitendra Nagpal.

17. High-level Committee Headed By MP Bezbaruah Notified on Assam Accord

The government had notified a High-Level committee for implementation of Clause 6 of Assam Accord. Retired IAS officer M.P. Bezbaruah is chairman of the 9-member Committee. The committee will examine the effectiveness of actions since 1985 to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.

18. 4th Edition Of Raisina Dialogue Held In New Delhi

Norway Prime Minister Ms. Erna Solberg delivered inaugural address in presence of PM Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.

-The theme of the Dialogue this year is "A World Reorder: New Geometries; Fluid Partnerships; Uncertain Outcomes".

19. HRD Ministry Introduced a 70-Point Grading Index To Assess The Quality Of School Education

20. 1st Ever Global Aviation Summit To Be Held In Mumbai

In a first, the 2-day long Global Aviation Summit 2019 with the theme "*Flying for all*" will be organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) in collaboration with FICCI from January 15-16, 2019 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

21. Citizenship Amendment Bill 2019 Passed in Lok Sabha

-The Citizenship Amendment bill seeking to provide Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan was passed by Lok Sabha. The Bill provides for Indian citizenship to such immigrants after six years of residence in India instead of 12 years currently.

-The Bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act of 1955 in order to grant citizenship to Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan if they have lived in India for six years.

22. RBI Forms Committee To Boost Digital Payments

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a High-Level Committee on Deepening of Digital Payments to encourage digitisation of payments and enhance financial inclusion. The five-member committee will be headed by UIDAI's former Chairman Nandan Nilekani.

23. Government Launched Web- Wonder Women Campaign to celebrate the exceptional achievements of women who have influenced and impacted society through social media.

24. Andaman To Be First Island To Operate Seaplanes Under UDAN-3

According to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, islands in Andaman will soon be connected by seaplanes that can land on or take-off from the water. To facilitate the same, the government has approved flight operations on 13 water aerodrome routes under the Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme.

25. Polavaram Project Enters Guinness Book of World Record For Concrete Pouring



The Polavaram project of Andhra Pradesh entered the Guinness Book of World by pouring 32,100 cubic meters of concrete in a matter of 24 hours.

26. UGC To Set Up CARE To Strengthen Research Publication

Faced with proliferation of substandard academic journals in the country, the University Grants Commission (UGC) announced forming an association of academic institutions which will compile a list of "credible quality journals" and ultimately replace UGC's own list of journals.

In a meeting held on November 14, the commission had deliberated on establishing a body, naming it 'Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics' or 'CARE', which will be composed of government bodies and statutory councils and will be headed by the UGC Vice Chairman. The body will be tasked to prepare a "CARE Reference List of Quality Journals".

27. SEBI Constitutes Research Advisory Committee Headed By Sankar De which will assist in formulating policy to undertake research relevant for development and regulation of capital markets.

28. 'National Consultation on Child Protection' Held in New Delhi

29. India's Longest Single Lane Steel Cable Bridge Opened in Arunachal Pradesh

India's longest 300-meter single lane steel cable suspension bridge was inaugurated by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu. The bridge across the Siang river at Yingkiong in Upper Siang district has been named Byorong Bridge. It is built at a cost of Rs48.43-crore provided by the DONER (Department for Development of North Eastern Region) Ministry. The Bridge will reduce the distance from Yinkiong to Tuting by almost 40 km.

30. Centre launches 5-yr Plan To Combat Pollution In 102 cities

The Environment Ministry launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) aimed at reducing toxic particulate matter in 102 Indian cities by 2024.

The NCAP will be a mid-term, five-year plan with 2019 as the first year, while 2017 will be the base year for comparison of concentration. An amount of INR300 crore has been sanctioned for this purpose.

31. 6 States Sign Agreement For Renukaji Multipurpose Dam Project

An agreement for Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project was signed in New Delhi among the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand in the presence of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Minister Nitin Gadkari. All the six Chief Ministers were present on the occasion.

-Under the agreement, three storage projects are proposed to be constructed on the river Yamuna and two of its tributaries – Tons and Giri in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

32. Gujarat Becomes The First State To Implement 10% Quota For General Category

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

33. Sushil Modi To Head Committee On GST Revenue Shortfall Faced By States

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi will head the 7-member committee to look into revenue shortfall being faced by the states after the GST roll-out and suggest steps for augmenting collections.

34. Sikkim CM Launched 'One Family, One Job' Scheme, under which for every family one government job has been allotted, in Gangtok. New recruits were taken for Group C and Group D posts in 12 departments.

Thus, Sikkim became the first state in the country to carry out such a programme for the people entitling them to state government employee benefits.

35. Rajyavardhan Rathore Launched 'National Youth Parliament Festival 2019'

Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Col Rajyavardhan Rathore launched the National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 at a function in New Delhi.



The theme of the festival is- 'Be the Voice of New India and Find solutions and contribute to policy'.

36. India, US Hold 2+2 Inter-Sessional Meeting in New Delhi

A 2+2 Inter-Sessional meeting between the United States and India took place in New Delhi, focusing on the progress of defence and foreign policy issues between the two countries.

37. India's Largest Startup Ecosystem Inaugurated in Kerala

38. Government Launches 'Womaniya on GeM' Initiative

Government e Marketplace (GeM) has launched "Womaniya on GeM", an initiative to enable women entrepreneurs and women self-help groups (WSHG) to sell handicrafts and handloom, accessories and many other products.

39. Madras HC Forms Committee To Weed Out Invasive Plant Species from the Western Ghats.

The committee shall be headed by Cherukuri Raghavendra Babu.

40. 1st National EMRS National Sports Meet 2019 Held in Hyderabad

The 1st National Level Sports Meet for the students of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) was inaugurated by Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs at G.M.C Balayogi Stadium, Hyderabad.

(The scheme of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) is one of the flagship intervention of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India introduced in the year 1997-98 to ensure tribal students get access to quality education in the remote tribal areas).

41. 9th International Micro Irrigation Conference Held in Aurangabad

The conference focused on the theme of "Micro Irrigation and Modern Agriculture".

42. 'Global Aviation Summit 2019' Begins in Mumbai

The summit, with a theme 'Flying for all-especially the next 6 Billion', is being organized by Ministry of Civil Aviation in association with FICCI.

43. Government Constitutes 7-Member GoM to Boost Real Estate Sector Under GST Regime

Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat **Nitin Patel** is the convener of the GoM (Group of Ministers). Finance Ministers of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh and the Panchayat Minister of Goa are the members. The committee will examine legality of inclusion and exclusion of land or any other ingredient, in composition and suggest valuation mechanism.

44. MP CM Launches Rs 50,000 cr Farm Loan Waiver Scheme 'Jai Kisan Rin Mukti Yojana.

It is expected to benefit 55 lakh small and marginal farmers. Only those farmers who have not registered themselves to pay GST and income tax can avail benefits under this scheme.

45. Maharashtra FM-led GoM To Look At Issues Related To Lottery Under GST

A ministerial panel headed by Maharashtra Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar will examine uniformity of taxation on lottery under GST or other issues arising out of it.

-Under GST, state-organized lottery falls under the 12% tax slab while state-authorized lottery attracts 28% tax. The GoM for the lottery will submit its report to GST Council in the next meeting for approval.

46. India's Satyarup Becomes World's Youngest Mountaineer To Climb 7 Peaks, 7 Volcano Summits

Mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta conquered Antarctica's highest point, Mount Sidley. With this feat, he became the first Indian and youngest man to climb the 7 highest peaks and volcanic summits across all continents.

Satyarup hails from South Kolkata and is a software engineer by profession.

(Mount sidley is the highest dormant volcano in Antarctica).



47. 2nd World Orange Festival Begins In Nagpur

The festival, while offering its famed oranges to the world, will also showcase and brand the exquisite fruit in order to boost its export.

48. PM Narendra Modi Launches National Museum of Indian Cinema in Mumbai

The development of the Museum was guided by the Museum Advisory Committee headed by Shyam Benegal.

49. India To Host 14th Session Of The Conference Of Parties To UNCCD

India will host the 14th session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to address the issue of land degradation and desertification which will have participation from over 100 countries. It is likely to be held in October 2019.

50. Saksham 2019 Launched By Petroleum Ministry In New Delhi

'Saksham', an annual high intensity one-month long people-centric mega campaign of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) was launched by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

51. India Signs Long Term Contract With Uzbekistan For Supply of Uranium

India has signed a long-term contract with Uzbekistan for supply of uranium ore concentrates to widen its source base for the nuclear fuel.
(Uzbekistan is the seventh largest exporter of uranium in the world).

52. 15th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Begins At Varanasi

it is being organized in Varanasi for the first time.

Theme - 'Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India'.

Chief Guest -Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius.

53. UK Sinha-Headed Working Group To Suggest Suitable Framework

-The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has set up an 11-member working group under the Chairmanship of former SEBI chief UK Sinha to go into the concept of 'Group Insolvency' and suggest a suitable framework.

54. IIT- Hyderabad Launches Full-Fledged B.Tech In Artificial Intelligence (first in the country)

-Besides IIT, Carnegie Mellon University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology(MIT), both of which are in the US, offer full-fledged B.Tech programmes in AI.

55. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Inaugurated The Diffo Bridge In Arunachal Pradesh

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the 426 meters long Diffo Bridge over Chipu River in Lower Dibang Valley District of Arunachal Pradesh. Border Roads Organization (BRO) has constructed the bridge along Indo-China border.

-The construction of the bridge began in 2011. The total cost to build the bridge was Rs 4,847.83 lakh and was funded by the Union ministry of road transport and highways.

56. JNPT (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust) Becomes Only Indian Port To Be Listed Amongst World's Top 30 Container Ports

JNPT notched up five spots, to be 28th on the list, compared to its previous ranking.

57. Arunachal Government Declares Pakke Hornbill Fest As 'State Festival'

Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF) is only conservation festival of Arunachal Pradesh.

-The PPHF festival was celebrated first time in 2015 to recognize the role played by the resident Nyishi tribe in conserving hornbills in the Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR).

58. Andhra Pradesh Cabinet Decides To Give Quota For Kapus Community, EBCs

Andhra Pradesh cabinet has decided to cater 5% reservation each for Kapu community and the economically backward classes (EBCs) among the forward castes. The cabinet approved the decision of doubling the welfare pensions given under the NTR Bharosa Scheme.

59. PM Modi Launched Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana under which a group of Indian diaspora will be taken on a government-sponsored tour of religious places in India twice a year. The first batch of 40 Indian-origin people are at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and from here they will begin their tour.

60. PM Modi Inaugurated 106th Indian Science Congress At Jalandhar (Lovely Professional University)

The ISC is an annual congregation that witnesses deliberations by top scientific minds of the country. The theme for which is 'Future: India-Science and Technology'.

As a part of the Indian Science Congress, Women's Science Congress was held which was inaugurated by Union Minister for Textiles & Industry Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani. The major attractions were the 55-feet, 25-ton massive robot 'Metal Magna' installed at the entrance gate.

61. India's Fastest Indigenous Train Renamed As Vande Bharat Express

-India's fastest indigenous train which will run from Delhi to Varanasi has been named as *Vande Bharat Express*. Its previous name was Train 18. The new name has been given after taking suggestions from the general public. It is a train built completely in India by Indian engineers in a span of 18 months and it is an example that it is possible to make world-class trains under Make in India.

62. PM Modi Dedicates Kochi Refinery Project to Nation

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated Kochi Refinery project and IOCL LPG Bottling Plant to the Nation in Kochi, Kerala. He laid the foundation stone of AIIMS in Tamil Nadu's Madurai.

63. Roshni, An Android App Developed To Help Visually Impaired Identify Notes

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

- This app was launched in Chandigarh. Roshni is the first Android app, which recognise INR currency notes.

64. IRDAI Sets Panel Headed By Praveen Kutumbe To Identify Systematically Important Insurers

65. Nari Shakti Is Oxford Dictionary's Hindi Word Of The Year 2018

66. Madhya Pradesh Launched Employment Scheme "Yuva Swabhiman Yojana" For Urban Youth - Under this scheme, 100 days of employment will be provided to youths from economically weaker sections in urban areas. They will also be given skill training.

67. Kerala To Launch 'Pravasi Dividend Pension Scheme'

- The Kerala government has floated a 'Pravasi Dividend Pension Scheme' to provide regular pension to Non-Resident Keralites on a one-time payment of Rs 5 lakh.

68: GST On Haj Reduced From 18% To 5%

This will significantly lower the airfare. For the first time since the independence 2,340 women from India will go on 2019 Haj without Mehram.

69: Odisha Announces Jiban Sampark Project in partnership with UNICEF India to generate awareness about the development and welfare initiatives of state government among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups of the state.



70: Uttarakhand's First Tulip Garden In Pithoragarh

-To be developed by the ONGC, under its corporate social responsibility programme, the proposed tulip garden will be the country's second after the one located in Srinagar (J&K).

71: Cable-Stayed 'Atal Setu' Inaugurated In Goa

A 5.1-km long cable-stayed "Atal Setu" on the Mandovi river in Goa, a third such bridge to connect the state capital with North Goa, was opened to the public by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.

72: National Salt Satyagraha Memorial Inaugurated At Dandi

In commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi dedicated grand and iconic 'National Salt Satyagraha Memorial' constructed by the Central Public Works Department at Dandi, Gujarat to the Nation.

73: UP Government Approves Construction Of Ganga Expressway

Uttar Pradesh state cabinet has approved construction of a four-lane Ganga Expressway connecting Prayagraj to Western Uttar Pradesh which would cost about 36,000 crore rupees. Ganga Expressway will be 600 kilometres long and can be expanded to six-lane in future. After completion it would be longest in the world.

74: Civil Aviation Ministry Launched First GI Store In Goa

The Civil Aviation ministry launched the country's first Geographical Indication (GI) store at Dabolim International Airport in Goa.

-GI stores will promote local products made by the artisans and handicrafts at the airport.

75: India, China Sign Protocol For Exports Of Indian Tobacco Leaves To China

76: First Swadesh Darshan Project Inaugurated In Sikkim

K.J. Alphons, Union Minister for Tourism has inaugurated the first project under the Swadesh Darshan Project of the Union Ministry of Tourism at the Zero Point, Gangtok, Sikkim. This project was sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism in June 2015 for Rs. 98.05 crores.

- Swadesh Darshan Scheme is one of the flagship scheme of Ministry of tourism for development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned manner.

77: ICAR Launches National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP)

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has launched the NAHEP to attract talent and strengthen higher agricultural education in the country.

ECONOMY NEWS

1. CSO (Central Statistics Office) Forecasts Indian Economy To Grow At 7.2% In 2018-19

2. Per Capita Income Doubled In 7 Years: CSO

The income earned by an average Indian doubled in 7 years, from Rs 63,642 per year in 2011-12 to Rs 1.25 lakh in 2018-19, as per the first advance estimates of national income released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) .

3. World Bank Pegs India's GDP Growth At 7.3 % in 2018-19

4. GST Registration Threshold Limit Increased To Rs 40 Lakh

The 32nd Meeting of GST Council was concluded in New Delhi. The Limit of annual turnover for composition scheme increased to 1.5 crore rupees effective from April 1, 2019. The Council has decided to increase the GST registration threshold limit to 40 lakh rupees from 20 lakh. The Taxpayers who are giving Services of up to Rs 50 lacs per annum will be taxed under 6% under Composition Scheme.

5. Microsoft Launches e-Commerce Platform for Handloom Weavers

Microsoft India has launched a new e-commerce platform *re-weave.in* for handloom weavers under its Project ReWeave, part of its philanthropic initiatives.

6: FDI Rose 18% In FY18 To Rs 28.25 Lakh Crore: RBI data

Reserve Bank of India has released a data on "Census on Foreign Liabilities and Assets of Indian Direct Investment Companies, 2017-18" which shows that the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has increased 18% to Rs. 28.25 lakh crore in FY18.

BANKING NEWS (only for Bank related exams)

1. HDFC MF Surpasses ICICI Prudential MF to Become Largest AMC (asset management company) in India

2. Syndicate Bank And SBI Life Insurance Signed Bancassurance Pact

3. MoU Signed Between Indian Army And PNB

An MoU was signed between the Indian Army and Punjab National Bank on the Defence Salary Package.

4: ICICI Bank, SBFC Joined Hands To Provide Loans Worth Rs. 1 Crore To MSMEs For 15-year Tenure

5. Government Amalgamates 3 RRBs Into A Single Bank

The government has amalgamated three Regional Rural Banks - *Punjab Gramin Bank, Malwa Gramin Bank and Sutlej Gramin Bank* - into a single RRB. -The sponsor banks of the RRBs are National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the Government of Punjab and Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India and Punjab and Sind Bank.

6. India Allows Iran's Bank Pasargad To Open Branch in Mumbai

Iran's Pasargad Bank has received the necessary clearances to open its branch in Mumbai. Alongside, India's UCO Bank will open a branch in Iran.

7. IRCTC Partners With Bharti AXA General Insurance

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), the Railways' subsidiary, will offer insurance of up to INR50 lakh for free for air passengers who book their ticket through its portal. IRCTC has tied up with Bharti-Axa for the offer.

8. Cabinet Approves Merger of Vijaya Bank & Dena Bank With Bank of Baroda

After this merger, Bank of Baroda will become the third biggest public sector bank. The merger will be effective from April 1. This is also the first ever three-way merger in Indian banking.

9. SBI Card And Etihad Guest Tie-up To Launch Premium Card For International Travel

- SBI Card and Etihad Guest, the loyalty programme of Etihad Airways, have joined hands to launch a travel-specific Visa credit card for members and Indian travellers. This is the first international co-brand partnership of SBI Card, the country's second-largest credit card issuer.

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

1. Amitabh Chaudhry Takes Charge As Axis Bank MD & CEO by succeeding Shikha Sharma

2. V K Yadav Assumes Charge of New Railway Board Chairman



3. Jair Bolsonaro Takes Oath As New President of Brazil

4. Justice TBN (Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair) Radhakrishnan Sworn In As 1st Chief Justice of Telangana High Court

With this, the state of Telangana will have its first independent high court.

5. Saurabh Kumar Appointed As Chairman Of Ordnance Factory Board

6. Hemant Bhargava Appointed LIC's Acting Chairman as VK Sharma retired.

(Imp facts about LIC : Life Insurance in its modern form came to India from England in the year 1818. LIC Headquarters in Mumbai

-Oriental Life Insurance Company started by Europeans in Calcutta was the first life insurance company on Indian Soil.).

7. Pentagon Chief of Staff Kevin Sweeney Resigns

In the United States, Department of Defence, Chief of Staff, Rear Admiral Kevin Sweeney has resigned, a month after Defence Secretary James Mattis announced his departure. He is now the third senior Pentagon official to announce his resignation since President Donald Trump announced US forces would leave Syria.

8. Sheikh Hasina Sworn-In As Bangladesh PM For 4th Term

It is her third consecutive term after her victory in the 11th Parliamentary elections.

President Mohammad Abdul Hamid administered the oath of office to Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka. This is the first time Hasina is forming a cabinet with the members of her own party.

9. Malaysia's King Muhammad V Becomes 1st Monarch To Resign Before Completing Tenure

10. Sultan Abdullah Elected New Malaysian King

11. Kumar Rajesh Chandra Appointed Director-General of SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal)

(The SSB, which has about 80,000 personnel, guards India's borders with Nepal and Bhutan) .

12. Jim Yong Kim Resigns As President Of The World Bank

World Bank President, Jim Yong Kim has made the surprise announcement that he is stepping down after six years in the post. His resignation will take effect from 1 February.

13. Pranav R Mehta Becomes 1st Indian to Head Global Solar Council

A visionary in the field of Solar Energy and the chairman of National Solar Energy Federation, Pranav R Mehta, has taken over as the president of Global Solar Council (GSC). He has become the first Indian to head the GSC.

-The Global Solar Council (GSC) was launched on December 6, 2015, following the historic United Nations Climate Change Conference (UN COP 21).

14. Nicolás Maduro Sworn In As Venezuela President for 2nd Term

The US, EU and 13 other countries have stated that they would not recognise Maduro's Presidency.

15. IWF President Named As Chef de Mission for Tokyo Olympics

President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF), Birendra Prasad Baishya, has been named Chef de Mission for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

It is for the first time that the Weightlifting has been accorded with the honor of Chef de Mission for the Olympics. Baishya is also one of the Indian Olympic Association Vice Presidents.

(The 2020 Summer Olympics, officially known as the Games of the XXXII Olympiad and commonly known as Tokyo 2020, is a forthcoming international multi-sport event that is scheduled to take place from 24 July to 9 August 2020).



16. Ashok Chawla Resigned As NSE Chairman

Ashok Chawla resigned as chairman of the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd

17. Su Tseng-chang Appointed PM of Taiwan

18. TCS Appoints Daniel Callahan As Independent Director

India's largest software exporter Tata Consultancy Services has appointed Don Callahan as an additional and independent director for a period of 5 years.

19. India's 1st CWG Boxing Gold-Medallist Mohammed Ali Qamar Appointed Women's Team Coach after replacing veteran Shiv Singh.

20. Manu Sawhney Appointed New ICC CEO

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that Manu Sawhney has been appointed as the organization's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

-Sawhney will succeed David Richardson in July following the ICC World Cup 2019.

21. Stephen Constantine Resigns As Coach Of Indian Football Team after the team's shock 0-1 defeat to Bahrain which led to its exit from the Asian Cup.

22. Prabhat Singh Appointed DG In National Human Rights Commission.

23. RBI Approves Appointment of V Vaidyanathan as MD, CEO of IDFC First Bank

(In December 2018, IDFC Bank and non-banking financial company Capital First completed their merger, creating a combined loan asset book of Rs 1.03 lakh crore for the merged entity IDFC First Bank).

24. Ravneet Gill To Replace Rana Kapoor as Yes Bank MD and CEO

25. IndiGo Appoints Ronojoy Dutta As New CEO

26. Ananth Narayanan Steps Down As Mynta-Jabong CEO

27: Pakistan Appoints Its First Ever Female Hindu Civil Judge

Suman Kumari has become the first Hindu woman to have been appointed as a civil judge in Pakistan after passing an examination for induction of judicial officers.

- The first judge from the Hindu community was Justice Rana Bhagwandas, who served as the acting chief justice for brief periods between 2005 and 2007.

28: Poonam Khetrpal Singh Re-appointed Regional Director Of WHO South-East Asia

29: Dilip Sadarangani Appointed As Chairman Of Federal Bank

Kerala based private sector lender Federal Bank has appointed Dilip Sadarangani as the part-time chairman.

30. LT Gen Rajeev Chopra Takes Over as Director General of NCC

AWARDS

1. Mohamed Salah Named African Footballer Of The Year

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah has been named as the 2018 Confederation of African Football Player of the Year. For the second consecutive year he has won the award.



2. Namita Gokhale Wins Sushila Devi Literature Award for her novel “Things to Leave Behind”.

3. Presidential Award Presented to PM Narendra Modi

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, received the first-ever Philip Kotler Presidential award, in New Delhi. The Award focuses on the triple-bottom-line of People, Profit, and Planet. It will be offered annually to the leader of a Nation.

Prof. Philip Kotler is a world-renowned Professor of Marketing at Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management.

4. Yu Wensheng Wins Franco-German Human Rights Award

A detained Chinese rights lawyer Yu Wensheng has won a Franco-German human rights award for his 'exceptional contribution' to the protection and promotion of human rights.

(France and Germany have presented the Franco-German Prize for Human Rights since 2016).

5. Gandhi Peace Prize Conferred for Last 4 Years (2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018)

1. For 2015: Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari for their contribution in Rural Development, Education , Development of natural resources.

2. For 2016: Jointly to Akshaya Patra Foundation for its contribution in providing mid-day meals to millions of children across India and Sulabh International for its contribution in improving the condition of sanitation in India and emancipation of manual scavengers.

3. For 2017: Ekal Abhiyan Trust for their contribution in providing Education for Rural and Tribal Children in remote areas pan India, Rural Empowerment, Gender and Social Equality.

4. For 2018: Shri Yohei Sasakawa for his contribution in Leprosy Eradication in India and across the world.

(The annual award was instituted by the Government of India in 1995 during the commemoration of 125th Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The award carries an amount of Rs 1Crore, a Citation in a scroll, a plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item).

6. Vinesh Phogat (wrestler) Becomes First Indian Athlete To Be Nominated In Laureus World Comeback of Year Award

7. Dr. Rattan Lal Honoured With 2019 Japan Prize

The Japan Prize Foundation announced India born professor Dr. Rattan Lal, University Professor of Soil Science at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A, as the recipient of the 2019 Japan Prize for his contributions in the field of “Biological Production, Ecology”.

8. MP Anurag Thakur Honoured With Sansad Ratna Award

Himachal Pradesh MP Anurag Thakur has been bestowed with Sansad Ratna Award for his distinguished performance as a parliamentarian under Jury Committee Special Award category. Thakur became the first BJP MP to receive the Jury Committee award. 12 parliamentarians were honored with the Sansad Ratna award, which was set up in 2010 on the suggestion of ex-President APJ Abdul Kalam.

9. Ranjani Murali Wins 'Woman's Voice Award' At AKLF 2019

US Based Indian poet Ranjani Murali was awarded the “Woman's Voice Award” at the Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF). The Objective of the award is to recognize and encourage creative writing by women in India. The Award carried a cash prize of Rs 1 Lakh along with a citation.

10. 2018 ICC Awards: Virat Kohli Takes 3 Major Honours

Virat Kohli has become the first player in history to win the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year, the ICC Men's Test Player of the Year and the ICC ODI Player of the Year awards following an extraordinary 2018.



-The International Cricket Council also announced the men's Test and ODI teams of the year with Virat Kohli named captain of both sides.
(ICC Chairperson: Shashank Manohar
ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
Manu Sawhney has been recently appointed as the ICC's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

11. Bharat Ratna CNR Rao Chosen For first Sheikh Saud International Prize for Materials Research.

The Award containing a plaque, a medal and a Cash Prize of USD 100000 will be presented by Sheikh Saud to Professor CNR Rao.
(CNR Rao was awarded the highest Civilian award, Bharat Ratna in 2014 and presently he is working as the Honorary President of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research).

12. Noted Gujarati Poet Sitanshu Yashashchandra Awarded Saraswati Samman 2017 for his poetry collection in Gujarati named "Vakhar". This is the 27th edition of the prestigious award instituted by K.K.Birla foundation. -The award comprises of a citation and a plaque apart from award money of 15 lakh rupees.

13. Government Institutes Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar

It will be announced every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The Award carries a certificate and a cash prize of 51 lakh rupees.
-This year, 8th Battalion of National Disaster Response Force located at Ghaziabad has been selected for the Award for its commendable work in disaster management.

14. Bharat Ratna Awarded to Nanaji Deshmukh, Dr Bhupen Hazarika and Pranab Mukherjee in 2019

- The Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the Republic of India. Instituted in 1954, the award is conferred "in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order", without distinction of race, occupation, position, or sex.
- The Bharat Ratna Awardees in 2019 are:
1. Pranab Mukherjee
2. Bhupen Hazarika (Posthumously)
3. Nanaji Deshmukh (Posthumously)

15. PADMA AWARDS - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.

'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service;

'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and

'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field.

The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year. These awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year. This year the President of India has approved conferment of **112** Padma Awards including **one duo case** (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one (* see award number 61 below).

The list comprises **4 Padma Vibhushan, 14 Padma Bhushan and 94 Padma Shri Awards. 21 of the awardees are women** and the list also includes **11 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, 3 Posthumous awardees and 1 transgender person.**

Padma Vibhushan (4)

- 1) Teejan Bai, (Art-Vocals-Folk, Chhattisgarh)
- 2) Ismail Omar Guelleh, (Public Affairs, Djibouti)
- 3) Anilkumar Manibhai Naik, (Trade and Industry)
- 4) Balwant Moreswar Purandare, (Art-Acting-Theatre, Maharashtra)



Padma Bhushan (14)

- 5) John Chambers (Foreigner), (Trade and Industry, USA)
- 6) Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, (Public Affairs, Punjab)
- 7) Pravin Gordhan (Foreigner), (Public Affairs, South Africa)
- 8) Mahashay Dharam Pal Gulati, (Industry, Delhi)
- 9) Darshan Lal Jain, (Social Work, Haryana)
- 10) Ashok Laxmanrao Kukade, (Affordable Healthcare, Maharashtra)
- 11) Kariya Munda, (Public Affairs, Jharkhand)
- 12) Budhaditya Mukherjee, (Art-Music-Sitar, West Bengal)
- 13) Mohanlal Viswanathan Nair, (Art-Acting-Film, Kerala)
- 14) S Nambi Narayan, (Science, Kerala)
- 15) Kuldip Nayar (**Posthumous**), (Journalism, Delhi)
- 16) Bachendri Pal, (Mountaineering, Uttarakhand)
- 17) V K Shunglu, (Civil Service, Delhi)
- 18) Hukumdev Narayan Yadav, (Public Affairs, Bihar)

Padma Shri (94)

- 19) Rajeshwar Acharya, (Art-Vocal-Hindustani, Uttar Pradesh)
- 20) Bangaru Adigalar, (Spiritualism, Tamil Nadu)
- 21) Illias Ali, (Medicine-Surgery, Assam)
- 22) **Manoj Bajpayee**, (Art-Acting-Films, Maharashtra)
- 23) Uddhab Kumar Bharali, (Grassroots Innovation, Assam)
- 24) Omesh Kumar Bharti, (Medicine-Rabies, Himachal Pradesh)
- 25) Pritam Bhartwan, (Art-Vocals-Folk, Uttarakhand)
- 26) Jyoti Bhatt, (Art-Painting, Gujarat)
- 27) Dilip Chakravarty, (Archaeology, Delhi)
- 28) Mammen Chandy, (Medicine-Hematology, West Bengal)
- 29) Swapan Chaudhuri, (Art-Music-Tabla, West Bengal)
- 30) Kanwal Singh Chauhan, (Agriculture, Haryana)
- 31) **Sunil Chhetri**, (Sports-Football, Telangana)
- 32) Dinyar Contractor, (Art-Acting-Theatre, Maharashtra)
- 33) Muktaben Pankajkumar Dagli, (Social Work-Divyang, Gujarat)
- 34) Babulal Dahiya, (Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh)
- 35) Thanga Darlong, (Art-Music-Flute, Tripura)
- 36) Prabhu Deva, (Art-Dance, Karnataka)
- 37) Rajkumari Devi, (Agriculture, Bihar)
- 38) Bhagirathi Devi, (Public Affairs, Bihar)
- 39) Baldev Singh Dhillon, (Science and Engineering, Punjab)
- 40) Harika ,Dronavalli (Sports-Chess, Andhra Pradesh)
- 41) Godawari Dutta, (Art-Painting, Bihar)
- 42) **Gautam Gambhir**, (Sports-Cricket, Delhi)
- 43) Draupadi Ghimiray, (Social Work-Divyang, Sikkim)
- 44) Rohini Godbole, (Nuclear-Science, Karnataka)
- 45) Sandeep Guleria, (Medicine-Surgery, Delhi)
- 46) Pratap Singh Hardia, (Medicine-Ophthalmology, Madhya Pradesh)
- 47) Bulu Imam Social, (Work-Culture, Jharkhand)
- 48) Friederike Irina (Foreigner), (Social Work-Animal, Germany)
- 49) Joravarsinh Jadav, (Art-Dance Folk, Gujarat)
- 50) S Jaishankar, (Civil Service, Delhi)
- 51) Narsingh Dev Jamwal, (Literature, Jammu and Kashmir)
- 52) Fayaz Ahmad Jan, (Art-Craft, Jammu and Kashmir)
- 53) K G Jayan, (Art-Music-Bhakti, Kerala)
- 54) Subhash Kak (Foreigner), (Science, USA)
- 55) Sharath Kamal, (Sports-Table Tennis, Tamil Nadu)
- 56) Rajani Kant, (Social Work, Uttar Pradesh)



- 57) Sudam Kate, (Medicine-Sickle Cell, Maharashtra)
- 58) Waman Kendre, (Art-Acting-Theatre, Maharashtra)
- 59) Kader Khan (Posthumous-Foreigner), (Art, Canada)
- 60) Abdul Gafur Khatri, (Art-Painting, Gujarat)
- 61) Ravindra Kolhe and Smita Kolhe, (Medicine, Maharashtra)- **DUO***
- 62) Bombayla Devi Laishram, (Sports-Archery, Manipur)
- 63) Kailash Madbaiya, (Literature,, Madhya Pradesh)
- 64) Ramesh Babaji Maharaj, (Social Work-Animal Welfare, Uttar Pradesh)
- 65) Vallabhbbhai Vasrambhai Marvaniya, (Agriculture, Gujarat)
- 66) **Gita Mehta (Foreigner)**, (Literature, USA)
- 67) Shadab Mohammad, (Medicine-Dentistry, Uttar Pradesh)
- 68) K K Muhammed, (Archaeology, Kerala)
- 69) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, (Medicine, Jharkhand)
- 70) Daitari Naik, (Social Work, Odisha)
- 71) Shankar Mahadevan Narayan, (Art-Vocals-Films, Maharashtra)
- 72) Shantanu Narayen (Foreigner), (Industry, USA)
- 73) Nartaki Natraj, (Art-Dance, Tamil Nadu)
- 74) Tsering Norboo, (Medicine-Surgery, Jammu and Kashmir)
- 75) Shri Anup Ranjan Pandey (Art-Music Chhattisgarh)
- 76) Jagdish Prasad Parikh, (Agriculture, Rajasthan)
- 77) Ganpatbhai Patel (Foreigner), (Literature, USA)
- 78) Bimal Patel, (Architecture, Gujarat)
- 79) Hukumchand Patidar, (Agriculture, Rajasthan)
- 80) Harvinder Singh Phoolka, (Public Affairs, Punjab)
- 81) Madurai Chinna Pillai, (Social Work, Tamil Nadu)
- 82) Tao Porchon-Lynch (Foreigner), (Yoga, USA)
- 83) Kamala Pujhari, (Agriculture, Odisha)
- 84) **Bajrang Punia**, (Sports-**Wrestling**, Haryana)
- 85) Jagat Ram (Medicine, Ophthalmology, Chandigarh)
- 86) R V Ramani, (Medicine-Ophthalmology, Tamil Nadu)
- 87) Devarapalli Prakash Rao (Social Work-Affordable Education, Odisha)
- 88) Anup Sah, (Art-Photography, Uttarakhand)
- 89) Milena Salvini (Foreigner), (Art-Dance-Kathakali, France)
- 90) Nagindas Sanghavi, (Journalism, Maharashtra)
- 91) Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry, (Art-Lyrics, Telangana)
- 92) Shabbir Sayyad, (Social Work-Animal Welfare, Maharashtra)
- 93) Mahesh Sharma, (Social Work-Tribal Welfare, Madhya Pradesh)
- 94) Mohammad Hanif Khan Shastri, (Literature, Delhi)
- 95) Brijesh Kumar Shukla, (Literature, Uttar Pradesh)
- 96) Narendra Singh, (Animal Husbandry, Haryana)
- 97) Prashanti Singh, (Sports-Basketball, Uttar Pradesh)
- 98) Sultan Singh, (Animal Husbandry, Haryana)
- 99) Jyoti Kumar Sinha, (Social Work-Affordable, Education, Bihar)
- 100) Anandan Sivamani, (Art-Music, Tamil Nadu)
- 101) Sharada Srinivasan, (Archaeology, Karnataka)
- 102) Devendra Swarup (Posthumous), (Literature, Uttar Pradesh)
- 103) **Ajay Thakur (Sports-Kabaddi Himachal Pradesh)**
- 104) Rajeev Tharanath, (Art-Music-Sarod, Karnataka)
- 105) Saalumarada Thimmakka, (Social Work-Environment, Karnataka)
- 106) Jamuna Tudu, (Social Work-Environment, Jharkhand)
- 107) Bharat Bhushan Tyagi, (Agriculture, Uttar Pradesh)
- 108) Ramaswami Venkataswami, (Medicine-Surgery, Tamil Nadu)
- 109) Ram Saran Verma, (Agriculture, Uttar Pradesh)
- 110) Swami Vishudhananda (Spiritualism, Kerala)
- 111) Hiralal Yadav (Art-Vocals-Folk, Uttar Pradesh)
- 112) Venkateswara Rao Yadlapalli (Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh)

SPORTS NEWS

1. Jasprit Bumrah Becomes Highest International Wicket-Taker in 2018

He took a total of 78 wickets in the calendar year. Bumrah surpassed South Africa's Kagiso Rabada's tally of 77 wickets to reach the milestone. While on the third position is Kuldeep Yadav who took 76 scalps.

2: 80th National Table Tennis Championship Begins In Cuttack

Venue-at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium

3. Hopman Cup (Lawn tennis) : Roger Federer & Belinda Bencic Retain Title For Switzerland

Switzerland's Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic secured victory over Germany's Angelique Kerber and Alexander Zverev to win the Hopman Cup for the second year in a row.

4. Egypt to Host 2019 African Cup of Nations

5. Sydney and Brisbane Chosen To Host \$15 million ATP Cup In 2020

Australian cities Sydney and Brisbane have been announced as the first two host locations for the newest team event in men's tennis for the multi-million dollar ATP Cup from 2020.

-The third Australian city for the tournament is yet to be determined.

6. 2nd Edition Of Khelo India Youth Games Begins In Pune

The second edition of Khelo India Youth Games has officially begun in Pune, Maharashtra. More than 9,000 players from different states will participate in 18 different events.

7. Harendra Singh Discontinued as Indian Men's Hockey Team Coach

Indian men's hockey coach Harendra Singh was removed from the position and offered the task of helming the junior squad by the national federation.

8. Mary Kom Attains No. 1 Position in AIBA Rankings

M C Mary Kom has attained number one position in the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) latest world rankings. She became the most successful boxer in world championships' history when she claimed the 48kg category top honors in Delhi in November 2018.

9. Albie Morkel (South African all-rounder) Retires From All Forms Of Cricket

10. Khelo India Youth Games Concludes: Maharashtra Tops Medal Tally

Maharashtra topped the medal tally with 37 golds at the Khelo India Youth Games in Pune. It had 111 medals in its kitty with 37 gold, 31 silver and 43 bronze. Delhi was at second position with 35 gold and Haryana too maintains its third position with 29 gold.

-10-year old Abhinav Shaw became the youngest gold medallist in the shooting. He teamed up with Mehuli Ghosh to help West Bengal win the 10m air rifle mixed team event.

11. Kartik Singh Becomes Youngest Indian to Win Junior World Title

Gurgaon's 8-year-old Kartik Singh has won the under-8 category at the Kids' Golf World Championship organized by US kids Golf in Malaysia, which makes him the youngest Indian to win the title.

12. Bengaluru Raptors Won 1st Ever PBL Title

Bengaluru Raptors have won their first ever Premier Badminton League, PBL title. In the title clash played at Bengaluru, Bengaluru edged out Mumbai Rockets, with a 4-3 win.

-Star player Kidambi Srikanth, Vu Ji Trang and the Men's Doubles pair of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Satiawan won their matches for Bengaluru guiding them to victory.



13. Shakil Ahmed Sets World Record In Indoor Rowing (boat)

Asian Cup gold medallist Shakil Ahmed has set up a world record in indoor rowing by completing 1 lakh meters in above-40 years category in Kolkata.

14. Chennai's Gukesh Crowned India's Youngest Grandmaster (Chess)

Tamil Nadu boy D Gukesh became the 2nd youngest Grand Master in the world and the youngest Indian to achieve the feat at 12 years, 7 months and 17 days.

- Ukraine's Sergey Karjakin remains the youngest-ever GM, having achieved the feat at the age of 12 years and 7 months in 2002.

15. India 1st Away Team To Win Bilateral Series in All Formats in Australia

India defeated Australia in the third ODI today to clinch the three-match series 2-1.

- With this, India became the first visiting side to win a bilateral series (two or more matches) in all three formats in Australia.

16. Ankita Raina Wins ITF's Tournament In Singapore

India's Ankita Raina has won the International Tennis Federation's 25,000-dollar Women's tournament in Singapore. In the Final, Ankita defeated top seed Arantxa Rus of the Netherlands.

17. Rishabh Pant Named ICC Emerging Player Of The Year

(Rishabh Pant also became the first Indian wicket-keeper to score a Test century in Australia) .

18. Mohammed Shami Becomes Fastest Indian Bowler To Reach 100 ODI Wickets in his 56th match (against New Zealand)

The Indian record was previously held by Irfan Pathan, who got there in his 59th match, against Pakistan in Abu Dhabi in 2006. The world record is currently held by Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan, who took 100 wickets in just 44 matches.

19. . Former South Africa all-rounder Johan Botha Announces Retirement From Cricket

20. Indonesia Masters Title 2019:

- The 2019 Indonesia Masters, officially the DAIHATSU Indonesia Masters 2019, is a badminton tournament that takes place at the Istora Gelora Bung Karno in Indonesia and has a total purse of \$350,000.

-Anders Antonsen won the men's singles title and Saina Nehwal won the women's singles title.

Ace shuttler Saina Nehwal won her first Indonesia Masters title after three-time world champion Carolina Marin limped out of the final due to a leg injury.

21. Australian Open 2019 Concludes

- The Australian Open is a tennis tournament held annually in Melbourne Park, Australia. The 2018 Australian Open was the 107th edition of the tournament.

- Novak Djokovic from Serbia won the Men's Singles after defeating Rafael Nadal in finals.

- Naomi Osaka of Japan won the Women's singles after defeating Petra Kvitova in Finals..

22. Holder Becomes 1st Top-Ranked Windies Test All-Rounder After Sobers

- West Indies captain Jason Holder has become the first player from the country in 45 years to top the list of all-rounders in the International Cricket Council Test Player Rankings.

23: Kartik Sharma Wins New South Wales Men's Amateur Golf Championship

India's Kartik Sharma won the New South Wales men's Amateur Golf Championship in Australia. Kartik notched up a magnificent win over Australia's Nathan Barberie in the scheduled 36-hole final to emerge as champion.

24: Rohit Paudel of Nepal Youngest Batsman To Hit International Half-Century

Nepal batsman Rohit Paudel has become the youngest male cricketer to score an international fifty at the age of 16 years and 146 days, breaking Sachin Tendulkar's previous mark.



25. 73-yr-old Jean-Luc Wins Round-the-World Sailing Race

French sailor Jean-Luc Van Den Heede has won the round-the-world yacht race after 212 days alone at sea without modern instruments. The 73-year-old, who completed his sixth circumnavigation of the globe, became the oldest to complete the 30,000-mile Golden Globe race. Of the 19 sailors who started out in July 2018, only 5 were still in the race.

OBITUARIES

1. Veteran Actor-Writer Kader Khan Passes Away in Canada at the age of 81

Kader Khan made his acting debut in 1973 with Rajesh Khanna's "Daag".

2. Sachin's Coach Ramakant Achrekar Passes Away

Veteran cricket coach Ramakant Achrekar, who trained Bharat Ratna Sachin Tendulkar and Vinod Kambli, among others, passed away following a heart attack. Achrekar was honoured with Padma Shri in 2010 and Dronacharya Award in 1990.

3. Fields Medal-Winning Mathematician Passes Away

Sir Michael Atiyah, a British mathematician who received the 1966 Fields Medal, also known as the 'Nobel for Mathematics,' passed away. He was best known for his co-development of a branch of mathematics called topological K-theory and the Atiyah-Singer index theorem.

4. Malayalam Director Lenin Rajendran Passes Away

He received the International Federation of Film Critics Award for the best Malayalam film for his film 'Makaramanju'.

5. Pulitzer Prize-Winning Writer and poet Mary Oliver Passes Away

6. Former Indian Hockey Player Raghbir Bhola Passes Away

7. Sahitya Akademi Award Winning Bengali Writer Atin Bandyopadhyay Passes Away

8. Jnanpith Winning Hindi Writer Krishna Sobti Passes Away

9. Pulitzer Prize-Winning Columnist Russell Baker Passes Away

10. World's Oldest Man Masazo Nonaka Passes Away At 113

The world's oldest man, Masazo Nonaka of Japan, has died at the age of 113. Nonaka, who was officially recognized as the oldest male in the world by Guinness World Records in April 2018, passed away at his home in the north of Japan's Hokkaido island.

11. Oscar-Winning French Composer Michel Legrand Passes Away

- Oscar-winning French composer Michel Legrand has passed away aged 86. During a career spanning more than half a century, Legrand won three Oscars.

12: Former Defence Minister George Fernandes Passes Away

Former Defence Minister George Fernandes passed away in Delhi at the age of 88. Fernandes also served as the Railways Minister in former Prime Minister VP Singh's government.

- His last stint as a parliamentarian was as a Rajya Sabha MP between August 2009 and July 2010.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Hindi Day:10 January

Note : National Hindi Diwas is celebrated every year on September 14.



2. National Youth Day: 12 January (156th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda).

3. Indian Army Day: 15 January

On this day in 1949, Field Marshal Kodandera M Cariappa took over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from General Sir Francis Butcher, the last British Commander-in-Chief. Army day is dedicated to the soldiers who fought to safeguard the country's honour. This is the 71st celebration of the Indian Army Day.

4. National Girl Child Day: 24 January

Theme - "Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow" and celebrating with objectives of generating awareness on the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR).

5. International Day of Education: 24 January

6. National Voters Day: 25 January

Theme - "No Voter to be left behind".

25th January 1950 is the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

7: Data Protection Day: Jan 28

8. World Leprosy Eradication Day: 30th January

-This year's theme for World Leprosy Day is 'ending discrimination, stigma, and prejudice'

-Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease is a highly contagious infection caused by the bacterium Mycobacterium leprae.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1. Malala Pens New Book On Refugee Girls Titled We Are Displaced

Nobel Peace Prize winner and Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai pens a new book, titled 'We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World,' charting her experiences traveling the world and visiting refugee camps.

2. The book "A Rural Manifesto – Realising India's Future through her Villages" authored by BJP MP Varun Gandhi was released in Bengaluru. The book focuses on the challenges faced by farmers, laborers, student, and teachers in villages across the country.

RANKS AND REPORTS

1. RBI Releases 18th issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR).

2. CII Forecasts India's Economy To Grow 7.5% In 2019

In its 'Growth Outlook for 2019', Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) stated that the GDP growth will be in the range of 7.5% in 2019.

3. Complaints With Bank Ombudsman increased 25% In FY18: RBI Report

"The banking ombudsman offices in tier-1 cities like New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad accounted for more than 57% of the total complaints received by all BO offices," the RBI Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India has stated.

4: Andhra Tops ACI's Ease Of Doing Business Index



Andhra Pradesh emerged on top of Asia Competitiveness Institute (ACI), Singapore's 2018 Ease of Doing Business (EDB) Index ABC rankings for economies of 21 states of India, while Maharashtra and Delhi came in second and third place, respectively.

5. India To Become World's 3rd Largest Consumer Market By 2030: WEF

A report by World Economic Forum stated that India is set to become the world's third largest consumer market behind only USA and China by 2030. The report was titled as 'Future of Consumption in Fast-Growth Consumer Market – India'.

(WEF Headquarters in Switzerland).

6. EIU Democracy Index 2018: Norway Tops, India Ranks 41st

It was released by the Economist Intelligent Unit compiling the state of democracies in 167 countries in the world. Norway, Iceland and Sweden holds 1st, 2nd and 3rd rank respectively.

7. India Ranks 80th On Global Talent Competitiveness Ranking:

-Switzerland continues to top the list, released on the first day of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting at Davos.

The top 3 countries in the list are:

1. Switzerland 2. Singapore 3. The United States.

8. India 6th in GDPR Readiness Index: CISCO

-Nearly 65% of Indian organizations are better prepared for the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), making the country the sixth leading nation globally in the GDPR readiness index, global networking leader, according to CISCO.

9: India Replaces Japan To Become Second-Largest Crude Steel Producer

India has replaced Japan as the world's 2nd largest steel producing country, while China is the largest producer of crude steel, accounting for more than 51% of production, according to the World Steel Association.

10: Dubai Airport Retains Top Position As World's Busiest Airport for the fifth consecutive year with annual traffic for 2018. It overtook the crown of the world's busiest hub for international travel from **London's Heathrow airport in 2014.**

11: Global Corruption Index Released, India Ranks 78

Transparency International has released the Global Corruption Index 2018. India rose by 3 points to 78 in the list of 180 countries in the world with a score of 41.

-China lagged far behind at 87 and Pakistan ranked 117.

SCIENCE

1. Japan Launches Satellite For World's 1st Artificial Meteor Shower

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency has launched Tokyo-based startup Star-ALE's mini-satellite aimed to deliver the world's first artificial meteor shower.

-The satellite carries 400 tiny balls, will be enough for 20-30 events, that will glow as they rush down the atmosphere on being released. ALE plans to deliver its first show in Hiroshimain early 2020.

2. India's 1st Manned Mission To Space By December 2021: ISRO

ISRO Chairman Dr. K Sivan has announced that the organization is well prepared to meet the targets of launching Gaganyaan manned mission to outer space by December 2021. Under Gaganyaan project, India is planning to send three astronauts to outer space for seven days and bring them back.

3. Dr. Jitendra Singh Inaugurated UNNATI Programme of ISRO in Bengaluru

UNNATI -Unispace Nanosatellite Assembly & Training



4. ISRO Successfully Launched PSLV C44 Carrying Kalamsat & Microsat R

The Indian Space Research Organisation successfully launched the PSLV C 44 carrying Kalam sat and imaging satellite Microsat R. The satellite was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

(Kalamsat is a ten cm cube weighing one-kilogram communication satellite with a life span of two months).

DEFENCE

1. India-Myanmar Joint Training Exercise Begins In Chandimandir

-The second edition of the India-Myanmar bilateral army exercise, IMBEX 2018-19, commenced at Chandimandir Military Station, that houses the headquarters of the Western Command, Chandigarh.

2. IAFTX 2019: India Africa Field Training Exercise Held in Pune

The joint training exercise is being conducted with more than a dozen African countries & India. It aims at synergising humanitarian mine action and joint peace operations.

3. Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba Commissioned New Naval Air Base 'INS Kohassa'

Indian Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba commissioned the new Naval Air Base 'INS Kohassa' at Diglipur in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

4. DRDO Launches Long Range Surface to Air Missile Off Odisha Coast

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test fired Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LR-SAM) from naval warship INS Chennai.

5. Ministry of Defence Launched 'RDP INDIA 2019' App with the intent of making available the highlights of the Republic Day event.

6. Assam Rifles Creates History By Showcasing "Nari Shakti" At Parade

The all-women Assam Rifles contingent created history this year by participating for the first time in a Republic Day (26th January) parade.

7. India's 2nd Defence Innovation Hub to come Up In Nashik

Nashik in Maharashtra will be the site of the country's second defence innovation hub after Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.

8. Indian Navy Coordinates Largest Ever Coastal Defence Exercise: SEA VIGIL

Ten years after "26/11", the Indian Navy commenced the largest coastal defence exercise off the Indian coast. Exercise *SEA VIGIL*, a first of its kind, is being undertaken along the entire 7516.6 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India and is involving all the 13 coastal States and Union Territories along with all maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities.

9: Israel Aerospace Industries Announces Agreement With Indian Navy and Cochin Shipyard

- Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) announced entering into agreements worth \$93 million for providing Naval Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) systems to India.