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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Nepal launches 'Visit Nepal Year 2020' campaign

- President of Nepal launched the "Visit Nepal Year 2020" during the ceremony held at historic Dasaratha Rangashala in Kathmandu. Mythical creature Yeti has been selected as mascot of the campaign.
- The ambitious campaign is aimed to promote tourism in Nepal and to attract 2 million tourists in 2020. The Visit Nepal 2020 campaign was launched in all the seven provinces of Nepal. Nepal is one of the World's fascinating tourist destination and the government has a goal of making tourism one of the key pillars of the Nepali economy.

2. Palau becomes 1st nation to ban 'reef toxic' sun cream

- The Pacific nation of Palau has become the first country to ban sun cream which is harmful to corals and sea life. The ban prohibits sun cream containing any of the 10 ingredients which includes oxybenzone and octinoxate, that absorbs ultraviolet light. A lagoon in Palau's Rock Islands is a Unesco World Heritage site. Palau is renowned for its marine life and is regarded as one of the world's best diving destinations.

3. Umaro Cissoko Embaló has won the Guinea-Bissau's presidential election.

- According to the National Electoral Commission of Guinea-Bissau, Umaro won the presidential election with 53.55% of votes. He will replace the incumbent President Jose Mario Vaz.

4. Nepal creates Guinness World Record for highest altitude fashion show event

- Nepal has created a new Guinness World Record for organizing highest altitude Fashion Show on the earth. The Mount Everest Fashion Runway was held at 5340 meters (17515 feet) elevation at Kala Patthar, near Everest base camp. 18 supermodels from 10 different countries walked the ramp to create history.

5. Brexit deal approved by the European Parliament

- The European Union parliament has approved United Kingdom Brexit deal. European Parliament has voted overwhelmingly to approve the Brexit deal with London, clearing the final hurdle for Britain's departure from the EU.

6. Qatar's emir has appointed Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdelaziz Al Thani as new Prime Minister. He will replace Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani.

7. Britain Unveils New 50 Pence Coin to Celebrate Brexit

8. Greece's parliament elects Katerina Sakellaropoulou as its 1st woman president

- Katerina Sakellaropoulou has been elected the Greece's first female president.

9. Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya participates at United Nations AIDS Programme in WEF at Davos, Switzerland

- The 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum begins in Davos, Switzerland. This year 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum theme will be "Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World".

10. 9th International Children's Film Festival begins in Kolkata

11. The US tech giant Microsoft has announced that it would become "carbon negative" by year 2030.

- Microsoft has also announced its investment of \$1 billion in a "climate innovation fund" for technology for carbon capture and removal.

12. Robert Abela has been elected as Malta's Prime minister

13. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev steps down

14. Treasury Department of USA removes China from "currency manipulator" list

15. Bangladesh has hosted Muslim congregation "Bishwa Ijtema" in Dhaka

16. First phase of “Bishwa Ijtema” has commenced in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

- This is the second largest congregation of Muslim community after Hajj. The second phase of the congregation will be held from 17th January to 19th January 2020.

17. Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq al Said has took as new Sultan of Oman. He will succeed Sultan Qaboos bin Said who was passed away.

18. Tsai Ing-wen was won the Taiwan presidential election. She wins the second term as Taiwan president.

19. The World Future Energy Summit commences in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

- The theme for World Future Energy Summit is “Rethinking Global Consumption, Production, and Investment”. The Summit will conclude on 17th January, 2020.

20. The Iranian parliament has designated US Armed Forces & Pentagon as ‘Terrorist Entities’ with a motion passed at an open parliament session.

21. President Trump inks USMCA North American trade deal

- US President Donald Trump has signed the new United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA) North American trade pact with Canada and Mexico into law.

22. Former Prime Minister Zoran Milanovic belongs Social Democratic Party(SDP) won Croatia’s presidential election.

23. The Ukrainian aircraft “Boeing 737” boarding 176 people crashed in Tehran, Iran.

24. UN declares Malala Yousafzai ‘Most Famous Teenager of The Decade’

25. Neutral pronoun ‘they’ has been voted word of the decade by US language experts.

26. United States officially launches “US Space Force”

- United States President Donald Trump has signed the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.
- With the signing of the act, US has authorised the establishment of US Space Force. The US Space Force will become the 6th branch of the armed forces. Space Force would become the youngest US military branch, and the first new service since the establishment of the US Air Force back in 1947.

27. In the honour of 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the World Health Organization designated the year 2020 as the “Year of Nurse and Midwife”.

- The organization is leading the development of “World Nursing Report” that is to be launched in 2020.

28. Iran’s top commander General Qassim Soleimani has been killed in a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad.

- Soleimani, who led a special forces unit of Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guards, has been a key figure of Iranian and the Middle East politics. His death exacerbated already-high tensions between Iran and the United States and triggered concerns of retaliation from Iranian forces. After the news of Soleimani’s death, oil prices jumped more than 4% and fueling fears of a conflict in the crude-rich region.

29. Iran names Esmail Qaani as new Commander

- Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei named the Deputy Head of the Revolutionary Guards’ foreign operations arm Esmail Qaani to replace Qasem Soleimani as its commander.
- Soleimani was killed in a pre-dawn US strike in Baghdad.

NATIONAL NEWS

1. The annual New Delhi World Book Fair, in its 28th edition, will focus on how Mahatma Gandhi influenced generations of writers through his writings.

- The theme for World Book Fair 2020 is ‘Gandhi: The Writers’ Writer.’

2. The External affairs ministry announced the setting up of new emerging and strategic technologies (NEST) division.
 - The division will work to increase investment coordination among the states of the country and also with the foreign countries.
 - NEST will act as the nodal division within the ministry for issues pertaining to new and emerging technologies. It will help in collaboration with foreign partners in the field of 5G and artificial intelligence.
 - The division will also hold responsibility for matters that involve negotiations with multilateral fora like the United Nations, G20.
3. Indian mountaineer Malavath Purna, the youngest girl to have climbed the world's highest mountain Mt. Everest 5 years ago, accomplished another feat by conquering Mt. Vinson Massif, Antarctica's highest mountain peak (4,987 mts).
4. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) opened its first "Patola Saree" silk processing plant at Surendranagar in Gujarat to boost its production.
 - Patola is the trademark saree of Gujarat.
5. India gives \$75 million LoC to Cuba for solar parks
6. Bhubaneswar to host 1st edition of Khelo India University Games
7. Institutions at GAU to get status of Institution of National Importance
 - The union cabinet granted the approval making the status of Institution of National Importance to a cluster of Ayurvedic institutions at Gujarat Ayurveda University in Jamnagar.
8. Government authorizes Rs 5559 cr for Indradhanush gas grid project
 - The amount will be provided as Viability Gap Funding (VGF). The amount will be used to set up Natural Gas Pipeline Grid connecting 8 North Eastern states. The 8 North Eastern states includes: Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.
9. Census exercise India-2021 to begin on 1st April 2020 and will end on 30th of September 2020.
 - Census India-2021 will be conducted through a mobile phone application. The enumerators of the census will seek the information of the mobile number of the head of the family, information related to TV, Internet, vehicles owned, toilets, source of drinking water besides asking other questions during the house listing phase of the exercise.
10. Works on laying of submarine cables between Chennai-A&N Islands inaugurates
 - At the initial stage of commissioning of the project itself, the islands can get a data speed of 400-gigabytes per second.
11. Union Home Minister has inaugurated the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal and Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) located in New Delhi.
12. The National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal is a citizen centric vision which enables people to report cyber-crimes online.
 - The NCCRP will also provide access of cyber-crime related complaints to the law enforcement agencies of the states and union territories to take action according to the law. It will also increase the coordination among the law enforcement agencies of the states and union territories in investigation of cases and resolving them. Presently, 3900 police stations and 700 police districts have been linked with the portal "cybercrime.gov.in".
13. Kolkata Port Trust was renamed as Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port on the occasion of 150th years celebration of Kolkata Port Trust. The event was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
14. Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Steel launched mission PURVODAYA for the development of eastern India through integrated steel hub in Kolkata, West Bengal. Under this mission, the government aims to transform logistics and utility infrastructure which would change the socio-economic landscape in eastern India.

15. Smriti Irani has launched 3 welfare schemes in Goa

- Union minister for women and child development and Member of Parliament from Amethi, Smriti Irani has launched 3 welfare schemes for women in Goa. The schemes are Yashaswini Scheme for Women Entrepreneurship, Swasthya Sahayak Project and breast cancer screening initiative handheld device facilitating detection of cancer.

16. India's 1st Cyber Crime Prevention Unit launched in Gujarat

- Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister launched the first Cyber Crime Prevention Unit of India "AASHVAST" in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. He also launched 2 other projects: VISWAS & Netrang. AASHVAST project will act as a helpline for the cyber crime victims.

17. Sardar Patel's 182 meter tall Statue of Unity in Gujarat included in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's '8 Wonders of SCO' list.

18. Captain Tania Shergill become 1st Woman to lead Republic Day contingent

- Parshuram Kund Mela started in North-Eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh. Parshuram Kund, a Hindu pilgrimage centre situated on the Brahmaputra plateau in the lower reaches of the Lohit River.

19. The "Indian Heritage in Digital Space" has been inaugurated by Union Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel at the National Museum located in New Delhi. IHDS, an initiative of Department of Science and Technology has created the models of Heritages with the help of holographic projections, AR and 3D fabrication and 3D LASER scan data.

20. Lucknow hosts the 7th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference 2020

- A mega campaign "Saksham" has been launched by Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan. It is a campaign of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) which aims to aware the people regarding fuel conservation and greener environment across India.

21. Goa is hosting the 5th edition of Science Film Festival of India (SCI-FFI 2020).

- The festival aims to instill the knowledge of science among the youth with the help of exhibitions, masterclasses, workshops, and other activities.

22. Postal Ballot facility has been made available for the Super Senior Citizens (over 80 years of age) and PwDs in the Delhi Assembly Election. Earlier it was only available to armed forces and those assigned in poll duties.

23. 1st edition of Krishi Manthan– the largest Food, Agri-business and Rural Development Summit of Asia begins in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. This summit is organized by Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad. It is an exclusive platform for industry, academia, and policymakers to share ideas, knowledge, and expertise to create solutions.

24. Union Minister of State for PMO Jitendra Singh launched the Bhuvan Panchayat V3 web Portal in Anthariksh Bhavan, ISRO Head Quarters in Bengaluru. This web Portal will enhance network application of gram panchayats. The Portal will function with the help of satellite technology developed by ISRO.

25. Indian Railways commissions 1st waste to energy plant in Bhubaneswar

26. The Supreme Court allowed the Centre to introduce the African cheetah to suitable habitat in India.

- The rare Indian cheetah is almost extinct in the country, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had filed an application seeking permission for the introduction of the African cheetah from Namibia.

27. Kerala became the 1st state in the country to pass a resolution against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

28. The Indian Railways has renamed its security force RPF (Railway Protection Force) as Indian Railway Protection Force Service.

29. Indore tops national cleanliness rankings for first two quarters

- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has announced the results of the 1st and 2nd quarters of the Swachh Survekshan 2020. The rankings is based on collection, transportation, processing and disposal of waste.
- Indore has topped the cleanliness charts for two consecutive quarters among cities with over 10 lakh population while Kolkata was the worst performer. Jamshedpur has topped the cleanliness charts for two consecutive quarters among cities with 1 lakh to 10 lakh population.

30. NITI Aayog has released the 2nd edition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index.

- According to the SDG India Index, India's composite score has improved from 57 in 2018 to 60 in 2019.
- India is the first country in the world with a government-led, sub-national measure of progress on Sustainable Development Goals. The Index spans 16 out of 17 SDGs with a qualitative assessment on Goal 17.
- Some key results of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index:
- Niti Aayog has given India an overall score of 60 points, driven mostly by progress in clean energy and sanitation (88); peace, justice and strong institutions (72); and affordable and clean energy (70).
- Kerala achieved the first rank in the composite SDG Index with a score of 70, followed by Himachal Pradesh at 69.
- Bihar is at the bottom of Niti Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index.

31. Bengaluru will host the 107th edition of the Indian Science Congress

- It will be the ninth time the city will host the annual convention. University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru will host the event.
- The congress has chosen 'science and technology: rural development' as its theme for the 107th edition. A Farmer's Science Congress will take part in it for the first time, hence providing a platform for innovative farmers.

32. The Election Commission of India has launched a Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System (PPRTMS).

- The system enables the applicants to track the status of the applications for the party registration.
- The Commission has also amended the guidelines for registration which came into force from 1st January 2020. Under the new guidelines, the applicants applying for the party registration from 1st of January 2020 will be able to track the progress of applications and will get the status through SMS and e-mail.
- An association seeking registration has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days from the date of its formation. This should be done as per the guidelines prescribed by the Commission in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 324 of the Constitution of India and Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The status can be tracked through the Commission's portal "pprtms.eci". (The registration of political parties is governed by the provisions of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.)

33. ISRO will set up launch port for small satellite launch vehicles

- The ISRO Chairman announced that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will establish a 2nd launch port in Thoothukodi district in Tamil Nadu. This launch port will be used exclusively to launch small satellite launch vehicles. The launch port will be established in 2300 acres. He announced that the process of Astronaut selection is over for India's 1st manned mission to outer space i.e. "Gaganyaan" to be launched by 2022.
- The ISRO Chairman also announced that the Government has approved the Chandrayaan-3 mission to the moon, comprising of a lander and a rover.

34. Nation celebrates 71st Republic Day

- The nation celebrated the 71st Republic Day with a grand military parade and exhibition of its history, cultural diversity and strategic weaponry at the Rajpath, Delhi. The chief guest for this year's republic day parade is Brazilian president, Jair Messias Bolsonaro.

35. 'Bharat Parv 2020' begins at Red Fort to celebrate spirit of India

- A festival to celebrate the spirit of India "Bharat Parv 2020" has begun at Red Fort Ground in New Delhi. The theme of this year's Bharat Parv is 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' and 'Celebrating 150 Years of Mahatma Gandhi.

36. Taxi service 'Women with Wheels' launched at Indira Gandhi International Airport

- A unique taxi service 'Women with wheels' which will be only available for the female commuters and will be driven by women drivers only, has been launched at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi. It is an initiative by 'Sakha cabs'.
- 37. **The 44th International Kolkata Book Fair (IKBF) will be held with Russia as the focal theme country.**
 - It is the world's largest non-trade book fair, Asia's largest book fair and the most attended book fair in the world.
- 38. **Reliance Jio becomes 1st Telecom to launch UPI Payments Feature**
 - Reliance Jio has become the 1st telecom operator to facilitate UPI payments feature through its platform after launching the feature on the MyJio app and will be now competing with other private UPI payment providers such as Paytm, Google Pay and PhonePe.
- 39. **India's 1st Mahatma Gandhi convention centre inaugurated in Niger**
 - Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou have inaugurated India's first Mahatma Gandhi convention centre in Niger. It is the first convention centre established in Africa by India to honour the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.
- 40. **Niranjan Bhat will head the committee set up by the Supreme Court of India to firm up draft legislation to give legal sanctity to disputes settled through mediation.**
- 41. **Indian airports has started thermal screening of passengers arriving in India from China and Hong Kong, to stop the 'Corona Virus' spread in India.**
- 42. **GoI sets up "National Startup Advisory Council"**
 - The "National Startup Advisory Council" has been set up by the Government of India to guide the union government to build a strong ecosystem to nurture innovation and start-ups in India. The council will be chaired by the Commerce Minister.
- 43. **Brazilian President J. M. Bolsonaro has been invited as the Chief Guest on India's 71st Republic Day celebrations**
 - 12th National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme inaugurated in Puducherry
- 44. **The Integrated Check-Post (ICP) in Biratnagar has been inaugurated at India-Nepal border.**
 - The inauguration was done by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepal's Prime Minister K.P.Sharma Oli.
- 45. **15th Raising Day celebrated by National Disaster Response Force**
 - The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was founded on 18th January 2006.
- 46. **ELECRAMA 2020 has been inaugurated by the Union Minister for Heavy Industries Prakash Javadekar in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. ELECRAMA is a platform for the Indian industry to be connected with the world in respect of technology, new trends and innovation for the future energy transition.**
- 47. **Union Minister of Fertilizers launched the 'Apna Urea – Sona Ugle' brand of HURL(Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Ltd).**
- 48. **India's first underwater metro expected to be complete by March 2022**
 - The country's 1st underwater metro project is set to complete its East-West Project of Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation, which runs partly under the Hooghly river, West Bengal, by March 2022
- 49. **"Samvidhaan" announced as the Oxford Hindi Word of the Year 2019**
 - Oxford University Press (OUP) named "Samvidhaan" (Constitution) the Oxford Hindi Word of 2019. The word was chosen as 2019 saw the values of democracy, secularism, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity being tested on the touchstone of the Constitution or "Samvidhaan".
- 50. **Meerut to house India's first war memorial for animals**
 - Government of India is a plan to set up a war memorial for animals in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. It will be India's first animal war memorial. The memorial will come up at the Remount and Veterinary Corps (RVC) Centre and College in Meerut.

51. Google announces \$1-million grant to promote news literacy in India

- Google announced a 1-million USD grant to promote news literacy among Indians. According to Google, the grant will work towards building a strong network of senior reporters and journalists, who will counteract fake news in India.

STATE NEWS

1. Shiv Bhojan Scheme launched by Maharashtra Government

- Maharashtra government launched 'Shiv Bhojan' scheme. The scheme aims to provide a meal to the poor for just 10 rupees, on the occasion of the 71st Republic Day.

2. Andhra Pradesh assembly adopts resolution to abolish Legislative Council

- Andhra Pradesh (AP) cabinet has adopted a resolution to abolish the legislative council, which the government feels is a major hurdle for passing crucial bills. This cabinet chaired by the chief minister (CM) YS Jaganmohan Reddy.

3. Surajkund Mela 2020: The Largest Crafts Fair In The World

- President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the 34th Surajkund International Crafts Fair on February 1, 2020, in Faridabad, Haryana. For the 34th Surajkund International Crafts Mela-2020, the partner country of the fair is Uzbekistan. The state of Himachal Pradesh has been chosen to be the Theme State.

4. The State Government of Odisha has launched a virtual police station where people can lodge complaints from their respective districts without visiting Police Station. The e-police station will function from the State Crime Records Bureau in Bhubaneswar.

5. India's 1st e-waste clinic opens in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

6. The e-waste clinic is jointly set up by the Central Pollution Control Board-CPCB and Bhopal Municipal Corporation-BMC.

7. Uttarakhand becomes 1st state to implement agricultural land leasing policy

- Now any institution, company, firm or NGO can take farm land on lease in villages, leasing a maximum of 30 acres of land on lease for 30 years.

8. Government of Maharashtra makes the reading of Preamble mandatory in Maharashtra schools

9. Maharashtra Government has made the reading of the Preamble of the Constitution mandatory for the Maharashtra schools. The reading will be done after prayer in all primary and secondary schools in Maharashtra.

10. Uttar Pradesh Government launches 'Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana'

- Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana has been launched by the government of Uttar Pradesh to provide financial assistance to the family of farmers who die or become handicapped while working in fields.

11. Meghalaya celebrates 48th anniversary of its statehood day on 21 January

12. Chapchar kut festival to be celebrated in Mizoram on March 6

- Chapchar Kut, the biggest and most important festival of the Mizos, will be celebrated by the Government of Mizoram on March 6, 2020. The festival is generally celebrated after the completion of the Jhum cultivation, which is also known as the slash and burn agriculture.

13. Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has launched the 7th Economic Census process in the state.

- Economic Census process is carried out by Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation with the help of Common Service Centres.

14. Arunachal Pradesh signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) to red-listing of orchids. Now Arunachal Pradesh has become the 1st state in the country to initiate the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) 'red listing' at the state level.

15. The famous chariot festival of the Suchindram Thanumalayan Temple in Tamilnadu begins.

- This 17th-century temple is famous for its architectural grandeur.
 - The temple is especially significant because it is sacred to both the Shaivite as well as Vashnavite sects.
16. **Jammu and Kashmir has registered the highest Inpatient Department, IPD care in the country.**
- According to the report released by the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), New Delhi.
 - As per the report, the 96% IPD care in rural areas of J&K is provided by Public Health Facilities.
 - This facility is highest against the country's average of 85%.
17. **Himachal Pradesh Gov. launches "Himachal MyGov" portal & "CM App"**
- The Himachal Pradesh Government has introduced a portal "Himachal MyGov" and become 11th state in India to have this facility.
 - The portal aims to boost public participation in the governance process. With the help of portal, public will be able to communicate their views, suggestions, feedback as well discontentment to the state government.
 - State also launched "CM App" which is a platform through which people of the state can write directly to the Chief Minister regarding their complaints.
18. **The 31st International Kite Festival has been launched at Sabarmati river front in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.**
19. **The 4th edition of 'Buxa Bird Festival' has started in Buxa National Park in West Bengal's, district Alipurduar.**
20. **Vikram Sarabhai Children Innovation Center to be set up in Gujarat**
- The Vikram Sarabhai Children Innovation Center (VSCIC) will identify, nurture and promote innovative abilities of children in the state.
21. **Kolkata Police has started the 3rd edition of 'Sukanya' project. it is an initiative of the Kolkata Police's Community Policing Wing to provide self-defence training to girl students of city-based schools, colleges and universities.**
22. **Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani unveils world's 2nd tallest statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in the world at Ahmedabad.**
- 50 feet tall bronze statue with a weight of 70 thousand kilograms has been unveiled at the Sardardham campus near Vaishnodevi Circle in Ahmedabad. The statue of Sardar Patel has also been designed by Padma Bhusan Ram V. Sutar, the same sculptor who had designed the Statue of Unity.
23. **Maharashtra Government has launched a 'Cyber Safe Women' initiative under which awareness camps will be held across all the districts of the state regarding cyber safety. The initiative will help in educating women about how the web is used by anti-social elements and child predators to commit various types of crimes.**
24. **UPSRTC (Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation) has launched 'Damini' helpline service considering the safety of the women passengers.**
- As the extension of 'Nirbhaya Yojana' the unique number "81142-77777" has been subscribed for this helpline.
25. **In Tripura, Lai Haraoba, a ritualistic festival observed by Manipuri meitei communities began in Agartala.**
- Lai Haraoba is celebrated through oral literature, music, dance and rituals.
26. **Andhra Pradesh Govt. appoints two 'Disha Special Officers'**
- The Andhra Pradesh government-appointed Indian Administrative Service (IAS) official Dr Kritika Shukla and Indian Police Service (IPS) official M Deepika, as Special Officers for implementing the Andhra Pradesh Disha Act 2019.
 - The Act is intended for speedy trial and faster execution in cases of sexual offences against women in the state.

ECONOMY NEWS

1. **The United Nations has lowered India's GDP growth rate to 5.7% for the Fiscal Year 2019-20 in its World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2020 report.**
- UN has lowered the growth rate to 5.7% from 7.6% which it projected in its WESP 2019 report.

2. NPCI Launches Blockchain-Based “Vajra Platform” To Secure Payments

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched a blockchain-technology based payment system ‘Vajra Platform’.

3. NSO (National statistical Office) projects India’s GDP growth rate for 2019-20 at 5%

- The decline has been mainly on account of deceleration in manufacturing sector growth, which is expected to come down to 2 per cent in 2019-20 from 6.2 per cent in the year-ago fiscal.

4. Shivalik Mercantile Co-op. Bank Ltd gets RBI’s approval to become Small Finance Bank.

5. The two Indian private sector lenders Axis Bank and ICICI Bank to close their operations in Sri Lanka after the Central Bank of Sri Lanka has permitted.

6. CCEA approves disinvestment of 4 CPSEs & 2 State PSUs.

- The 4 CPSEs includes Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC), MECON, Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL) and National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC).
- 2 Odisha State PSUs includes Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL) and Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC).
- The advances from the disinvestment are expected to finance the development programmes of the Government launched for the public.

7. World Bank has released Global Economic Prospects report. In its report, the World Bank has projected India’s growth rate at 5% for fiscal year 2020.

8. The State Bank of India has released its research report ‘Ecowrap’. In the report ‘Ecowrap’, the economic research department of SBI has lowered India’s growth rate to 4.6% in the fiscal year 2020.

9. The Reserve Bank of India has released a report “National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI).

- As per the official statement, “the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion 2019-2024 sets forth the vision and key objectives of the financial inclusion policies in India to help expand and sustain the financial inclusion process at the national level through a broad convergence of action involving all the stakeholders in the financial sector. The report stated the following 6 pillars as part of strategic objectives to achieve the aim of financial inclusion:

- Universal Access to Financial Services
- Providing basic bouquet of financial services
- Access to livelihood and Skill Development
- Financial Literacy and Education
- Customer Protection and Grievance Redressal
- Effective Co-ordination

10. The e-commerce company, Amazon has announced the incremental investment of 1 USD bn in India.

- The investment by Amazon will have the prime objective of digitising the small and medium businesses (SMB’s) in India.

11. The Reserve Bank of India has revised its supervisory framework for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs).

- The revised framework aims to expedite resolution of UCBs experiencing financial stress. The revised framework stipulates the thresholds for various parameters that could trigger a corrective action by the UCBs or a supervisory action by the central bank. A UCB may be placed under supervisory action framework under the following conditions:

- When its Net Non-Performing Asset (NPA) exceeds 6% of its net advances.
- When its Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio (CRAR) falls below 9%.
- When it incurs losses for two consecutive financial years or has accumulated losses on its balance sheet.
- RBI could also undertake different actions like imposition of all-inclusive directions under section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Issue of show cause notice for cancellation of banking license may also be considered by the RBI if continued normal functioning of the UCB is no longer considered to be in the interest of its depositors.

12. IMF lowers India's 2019 growth forecast to 4.8% from 6.1%

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has estimated India's growth rate for the fiscal year 2019 as 4.8%. IMF has also projected India's growth rate as 5.8% in 2020 and 6.5% in 2021.

13. RBI has raised the Investment limit for FPIs in government & corporate bonds to 30%

- The Reserve Bank of India has increased the investment limit for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) from 20% to 30% in government & corporate bonds.

14. Government announces sale of 100% stake in debt-laden Air India

- The government of India announced a sale of 100% stake in debt-laden Air India. As part of the strategic disinvestment and has set March 17, as the deadline for submitting an expression of interest (EoI).

15. Economic Survey 2020

- Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman presented Economic Survey 2019-20 in the Parliament today (31 January 2020). This year's Economic survey is being prepared by the Chief Economic Advisor, Krishnamurthy V Subramanian. Theme of Survey is wealth creation, promotion of pro-business policies, strengthening of trust in the economy.
- GDP growth pegged at 6-6.5% in fiscal year starting April 1, up from 5% in current fiscal
- Survey asks government to deliver expeditiously on reforms to revive growth
- Ethical wealth creation key to India becoming \$5 trillion economy by 2025
- Share of formal employment increased from 17.9% in 2011-12 to 22.8% in 2017-18 reflecting formalisation in the economy.
- To achieve GDP of \$5 trillion by 2024-25, India needs to spend about \$1.4 trillion over these years on infrastructure
- 2.62 crore new jobs created in rural, urban areas between 2011-12 and 2017-18 among regular wage/salaried employees
- 8% increase in regular employment of women in 2017-18 over 2011-12

16. "MANI" to help visually challenged to identify currency notes

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a mobile app "Mobile Aided Note Identifier (MANI)". The visually challenged people can identify the denomination of a currency note by using the mobile app "MANI".
- The application also works offline once installed. The application scans the currency notes using the camera of the mobile phone and also gives audio output in Hindi and English. The app does not authenticate a note as either genuine or counterfeit.

RANKS AND REPORTS

1. **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released the 12th edition of the "Democracy Index 2019: A year of democratic setbacks and popular protest".** Norway topped the Index while North Korea was placed at the bottom of the list. India has been placed at 51st position among 167 countries in the Index and was included in flawed democracy.
2. **Indian paddler Manav Thakkar became world no.1 in the latest International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings in the Under-21 men's singles category.** With this, Thakkar became the fourth Indian to achieve the feat after Harmeet Desai, G Sathiyam and Soumyajit Ghosh.
3. **Deutsche Bank research report "Imagine 2030" projects India's economy to reach \$7 trillion by 2030**
4. **India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been listed as the 5th biggest Geo-political Risk of 2020.**
 - The listing was done by Eurasia Group in its report. The report states 'Top 10 Risks' of the year 2020.
5. **Henley Passport Index 2020 has been released. The Indian passport ranked 84th in the world's most powerful passport index 2020.** Which is a drop by 2 places as it ranked 82nd in 2019. The list was topped by Japan.

6. Union Government unveils State Energy Efficiency Index 2019

- The Union Government has released the “State Energy Efficiency Index 2019”. The index was released during the ‘Review, Planning and Monitoring (RPM)’ meeting held in New Delhi.
- The index is developed by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) along with Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE). The SEE Index 2019 traces the expansion and achievements of Energy Efficiency (EE) drives running in 36 states and union territories.
- The SEE Index 2019 constitutes quantitative, qualitative and outcome based 97 indicators to check energy efficiency initiatives, programs and outcomes in five distinct areas: transport, industry, agriculture, buildings, municipalities, and DISCOMs.
- State Energy Efficiency Index 2019 has divided States/UTs into 4 groups on the basis of Total Primary Energy Supply (TPES) desired to meet the State’s/UT’s actual energy demand through electricity, coal, oil, gas, etc. across all the sectors. The 4 groups are: ‘Front Runner’, ‘Achiever’, ‘Contender’ and ‘Aspirant’. The states of Haryana, Karnataka and Kerala were in “Achiever” group and there was not a single state in the “Front Runner” group, while Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand and Rajasthan performed worst in their respective groups.

7. “The Global Risks Report 2020” has been released by World Economic Forum

- The report has been prepared by WEF in partnership with Marsh & McLennan and Zurich Insurance Group.
- Key findings of the report:
- A “global risk” was defined as an uncertain event or condition that, if it occurs, can cause significant negative impact for several countries or industries within the next 10 years.
- ‘Failure to mitigate and adapt to climate change’ has been declared as the number one risk by impact and number two by likelihood over the next 10 years in the report.

8. Global Social Mobility Index 2020

- The 1st edition of Global Social Mobility Report 2020 titled “The Global Social Mobility Report 2020: Equality, Opportunity and a New Economic Imperative” released by World Economic Forum. As per the Index, India ranked has 76th position with a score of 42.7, while Denmark topped the list.

9. The United Nations has released its annual flagship report “World Economic Situation and Prospects Report 2020”.

10. RBI stands at 6th position in buying gold abroad in World Gold Council report

- “World Gold Outlook 2020” has been released by World Gold Council in which it placed Reserve Bank of India on 6th position in the largest buyer of sovereign gold abroad.

11. Jharkhand’s Jharia most polluted city in India

- The coal-belching town of Jharia in Jharkhand to be the most polluted city in India according to a Greenpeace India Report.

12. West Bengal emerged as the top State in vegetable production in 2018-19.

- West Bengal has overtaken Uttar Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh continued to hold on to the pole position in fruits with 17.61 mt, followed by Maharashtra (10.82 mt) and Uttar Pradesh (10.65 mt).

OBITUARIES

1. Padma Shri awardee Tushar Kanjilal passes away

- Famous social worker, environmentalist, educationist & writer Tushar Kanjilal passed away. The Government of India awarded Tushar Kanjilal the 4th highest civilian honour of Padma Shri in 1986

2. Former Indian women’s hockey team captain Sunita Chandra passed away. She was an Arjuna awardee.

3. Eminent Assamese linguist and academician Golok Chandra Goswami passed away.

4. NBA legend Kobe Bryant passes away

- National Basketball Association (NBA) legend Kobe Bryant passed away in a helicopter crash with his 13-year-old daughter Gianna. Bryant was a 5-time NBA champion and 2-time Olympic gold medallist is widely regarded as one of the greatest basketball players in history.
- 5. **World's shortest man Khagendra Thapa Magar passes away**
- 6. **Veteran filmmaker Manmohan Mohapatra passed away at the age of 69 in Bhubneshwar.**
 - Manmohan Mohapatra was an Odia filmmaker considered as the 'Father of New Wave Odia Cinema' and won eight national awards consecutively for 'Best Feature Odia film'.
- 7. **Ruler of Oman Sultan Qaboos bin Said passes away**
 - Veteran Odissi Danseuse Minati Mishra passed away. In 2012 she was honoured with the Padma Shri.
- 8. **Former Karnataka Governor T N Chaturvedi passes away**
 - He also served as of Comptroller and Auditor General of India from 1984 to 1989. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 1991.
- 9. **The Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) leader and Nagaland Assembly Speaker Vikho-o Yhoshu passed away.**
- 10. **Eminent Assamese dramatist, litterateur and social activist Ratna Ojha passed away.**
 - He had introduced street plays in Assam in 1971 with his skit 'Kokaideo' to revive the theatre movement in the state that was fading with the death of his mentor Phani Sarma.
 - For his contribution to the field of theatre, he received the prestigious Natyasurya Award in 2005.

AGREEMENTS

1. **The Indian Army is to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the procurement of over 7.5 lakh AK-203 assault rifles with Russia.**
 - The rifles will be manufactured by the Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh. The facility is being set up between the Ordnance Factories Board (OFB) from the Indian side, and Rosoboron Exports and Kalashnikov on the Russian side.
 - The OFB owns 50.5% equity and Russian side holds the remaining 49.5%. The Army has been looking to replace the indigenous INSAS (Indian National Small Arms System) rifles in use with a modern rifle.
2. **IIM-Indore signs MoU with TikTok provides short video modules**
 - The Indian Institute of Management, Indore has signed an MoU with the video sharing platform "TikTok". The MoU will facilitate the production of short video modules for students and trained professionals.
3. **World Bank & GoI signs MoU for loan of \$88 million of Assam Inland Water Transport Project.**
 - The loan agreement seeks to modernize the Assam's passenger ferry sector by improving the infrastructure and its services.
 - NITI Aayog and UT of Ladakh sign MoU to promote development in Ladakh

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. **'Vyommitra' or "friend in the sky" a half-humanoid robot for Gaganyaan Space Mission has been unveiled by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). ISRO has planned to execute two unmanned missions before the Gaganyaan mission.**
2. **France to train Indian flight surgeons for ISRO's Gaganyaan mission.**
 - Indian Space Research Organisation to launch GSAT-30 satellite
 - Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch GSAT-30 satellite onboard Ariane-5 launch vehicle (VA 251) from French Guiana, overseas department of France. This satellite will launch on 17 January 2020. The

GSAT-30 is a communication satellite of India and configured on ISRO's enhanced I-3K Bus structure to provide communication services from Geostationary orbit in C and Ku bands.

3. **International team of astronomers finds farthest galaxy group EGS77.**
 - The team of astronomers was led by an Indian-origin Goa-born scientist, Vithal Tilvi.
4. **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has proposed Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) at Challakere in Chitradurga district of Karnataka. The facility is expected to become operational in 3 years.**
 - ISRO aims to establish a self-contained training facility here. At present, astronauts part of Gaganyaan Mission, the Human Spaceflight Programme of ISRO are trained in Russia. The centre aims at bringing in all the features that are provided by Russia and begin training astronauts within the country.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

1. **Kochi, Kerala will host the Global Investors Meet: ASCEND 2020. ASCEND 2020 will showcase 18 mega projects with over Rs 100 crore investment each and offering direct employment to over 9,000 people.**
 - The projects include: Kochi-to-Palakkad integrated manufacturing cluster, an electronic hardware park in Ernakulam district, integrated solid-waste management systems in Thiruvananthapuram, Thrissur and Malappuram, a medium density fibreboard plant in Perumbavoor and a defence park at Ottappalam, and many other projects.
2. **Kochi will host the 3rd international symposium on marine ecosystems challenges and opportunities (MECOS-3) from January 7 to 10. This symposium will be organised by the Marine Biological Association of India.**
3. **Defence Minister inaugurated the National Traders Convention at Ramlila Maidan, Delhi.**
 - The convention has been organised by Confederation of All India Traders and will deliberate upon various issues concerning traders, including "onslaught of e-commerce companies on retail trade by their malpractices and violation of FDI policy". The aim of this convention will be to discuss the role of the trading community in achieving a 5 trillion dollar economy goal.
4. **India hosts 5th Asia Pacific drosophila research conference in Pune**
 - The conference is being conducted in India for the 1st time.
 - It is organised by the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER). It will bring together scientists from all over the world who use the fruit fly, Drosophila, as a model organism to address basic and applied questions.
5. **The 27th edition of South Asian Trade and Travel Exchange Expo (SATTE) 2020 was held in New Delhi.**
 - The SATTE expo was supported by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and sponsored by Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Department.
 - The objective of the expo was to build new business partnerships and hence was an important place for the promotion of tourism. The SATTE witnessed the participation of over 50 countries and 28 Indian states.
6. **The 23rd National Youth Festival 2020 has started from 12-16 January in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. This festival is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The theme of the 23rd National Youth Festival 2020 is "FIT YOUTH FIT INDIA".**
7. **India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA), the nodal body for the country's pulses trade and industry on announced that the 5th edition of "The Pulses Conclave 2020", will be held from 12th February to 14th February 2020 in Lonavala, Maharashtra.**
8. **India's flagship global conference on geopolitics and geo-economics "Raisina Dialogue" begins in New Delhi from 14 January 2020. This dialogue is organized on the lines of Shangri-La Dialogue held in Singapore. The name "Raisina Dialogue" comes from Raisina Hill, an elevation in New Delhi that is home to the Government of India, as well as the Rashtrapati Bhawan of India. Theme: '21@20: Navigating the Alpha Century'**

9. **The 6th meeting of the Island Development Agency (IDA) was supervised by Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister in New Delhi. During the meet, initiatives of sustainable development in the identified Islands were taken under Island Development Agency.**
10. **India to host the 19th Edition of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting 2020. The meeting is held annually at the Prime Minister's level.**
11. **2nd edition of NIC Tech Conclave-2020 begins in New Delhi**
 - This event is being organized by the National Informatics Centre. This year conclave theme is "Technologies for Next-Gen Governance".
12. **India hosts the International Summit on Women in STEM "Visualizing the Future: New Skylines" at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Department of Biotechnology organized the summit which aimed to boost the women participation in STEM field for the development of scientific career.**
13. **The World Sustainable Summit 2020 is an annual event organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) at New Delhi. This year theme of the event is: 'Towards 2030: Making the Decade Count'.**

DEFENCE

1. **SAMPRITI-IX: India-Bangladesh joint exercise to be held in Meghalaya**
 - The 9th edition of joint military training exercise between India-Bangladesh SAMPRITI-IX will be conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya.
2. **Indian Navy has launched "Operation Vanilla" to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief at Madagascar. 'Operation Vanilla' has been launched to provide assistance to the affected population of Madagascar post devastation caused by Cyclone Diane.**
3. **GRSE set to deliver ASW corvette INS Kavaratti to Navy soon**
 - Defence PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) is set to deliver anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kavaratti to the Indian Navy. INS Kavaratti is 104th warship constructed by GRSE.
4. **DAC approves the procurement of about Rs 5100 crore Indigenous Equipments**

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), headed by defence minister Rajnath Singh has approved the procurement of Indigenous Equipments valued at Rs 5100 crore. These indigenous equipments have been manufactured by the Indian industry and designed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Army.
5. **The Indian Air Force has inducted its 1st squadron of Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft carrying the BrahMos missiles in the South at its Thanjavur based in Tamil Nadu.**
6. **Russia has started production of S-400 long-range surface-to-air missile systems for India.**
 - All five units will be delivered to India by 2025. The S-400 air defence missile systems are among the best in the world.
7. **The nuclear-capable K-4 ballistic missile has been successfully test-fired by India at Vizag coast in Andhra Pradesh. The nuclear-capable missile having the range of 3,500-kilometre was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**
8. **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off 51st K9 VAJRA-T Gun from Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Armoured System Complex at Hazira in Gujarat. The gun weighs 50 tonnes and can fire 47-kilogram bombs at targets up to a distance of 43 kilometres.**
9. **India deploys INS Vikramaditya in Arabian Sea amid Exercise 'Sea Guardians'**
 - India has deployed its aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya in Arabian Sea. The aircraft carrier was deployed amid the Pakistan-China naval exercise "Sea Guardians" taking place in North Arabian Sea.

10. Visakhapatnam is ready to host another International Naval event 'MILAN' in March 2020.
 - The theme of the exercise for the year 2020 is 'Synergy Across the Seas'.
11. India's 1st indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant to be commissioned by 2021
 - It will be fully operated by 2022. Vikrant is being built at the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) Kochi, Kerala.
12. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) to observe 2020 as 'year of mobility'
 - India and Oman will conduct 12th edition of bilateral maritime exercise 'Naseem Al Bahr' in Mormugao Port, Goa.
13. Indian Navy starts 1st 'Maha-Navy Connect 2020' Tri-Dimensional Expedition started from Mumbai, Maharashtra.
 - The aim of the expedition is to promote the maritime heritage of India and spread awareness about Coastal Security amongst the coastal communities in Maharashtra.

APPOINTMENTS

1. RBI Executive Director Janak Raj appoints as MPC Member
 - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed its Executive Director Janak Raj as member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). He will replace M D Patra, who was recently elevated as Deputy Governor of the RBI.
2. India appoints Taranjit Singh Sandhu as India's next Ambassador to USA
3. Slovenian PM Marjan Sarec resigns
4. CEC of India Sunil Arora assumes Chairmanship of FEMBoSA for 2020
 - The Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) has got a new chairman- Sunil Arora for the year 2020.
5. The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India.
6. Bipul Behari Saha has been elected by IUPAC as its bureau member
 - Bipul Behari Saha has been elected as the bureau member of International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) for the tenure of 2020-23. He has become the 2nd Indian after CNR Rao to hold the position.
7. Anand Prakash Maheshwari has appointed Director General (DG) of Central Reserve Police Force.
8. Michael Patra appointed as the Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank
 - Michael Debaprata Patra was currently serving as the Executive Director of RBI. He has appointed in place of former deputy governor Viral Acharya.
9. A Sakthivel has been appointed as the new chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council of India (AEPC) for the period 2020-21.
10. Abhinav Kumar gets extension as BSF IG up to June 27, 2021, in relaxation of IPS Tenure Policy.
11. The chief of Delhi AIIMS' ENT head-neck surgery department, Professor Suresh Chandra Sharma, was appointed the chairman of National Medical Commission.
12. H.K. Joshi appointed as CMD of Shipping Corporation of India

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Braille Day: 4 January
2. 16th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas: 9 January

- It commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on 9 January 1915.
- 3. **World Hindi Day is celebrated globally on 10th January every year.**
 - The day marked the anniversary of first World Hindi Conference held in 1975 in Nagpur.
- 4. **12th January : National Youth Day**
 - This is the day when Swami Vivekananda was born.
- 5. **14th January celebrated as Armed Forces Veterans Day**
 - This day is observed to mark the respect and recognition of the services rendered by Field Marshal KM Cariappa. He was the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Armed Forces, retired on 14th January 1953.
- 6. **15 January celebrated as Indian Army Day**
 - IMD celebrated its 145th foundation Day on 15 January
 - IMD was created in 15 January 1875.
- 7. **National Girl Child Day celebrated by India on 24th January**
 - 24th January celebrated globally as International Day of Education
- 8. **National Voters' Day celebrated by India on 25th January**
 - India celebrated 10th edition National Voters' Day of 25th of January with the theme 'Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy' which aims to renew the citizens' faith in the electoral process as well as to educate the voters of India.
- 9. **30 January: World Leprosy Day 2020**
 - In India, World Leprosy Day is observed on Jan 30 every year to commemorate the death of Mahatma Gandhi who was assassinated on this day in 1948. This year theme of World Leprosy Day 2020 is "Leprosy isn't what you think".

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1. **'Karmayoddha Granth': A book on the life of PM Narendra Modi launched**
2. **Mukherjee releases Yashwant Sinha's autobiography**
 - Former President Pranab Mukherjee released the autobiography of Yashwant Sinha titled 'Relentless'. The book describes Sinha's journey from normal life to a high political powered life.

AWARDS

1. **Aayushi Dholakia becomes Miss Teen International 2019**
2. **Jasbinder Bilan has won the UK based Costa Children's Award 2019 . She has won the award for her debut novel 'Asha and the Spirit Bird'.**
3. **Dr MS Swaminathan, a famous Agricultural Scientist was honoured as the first recipient of 'Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National Award for Excellence' for his distinguished contribution to the field of agriculture. Dr Swaminathan is the "Father of the Green Revolution in India and the Doyen of Agricultural Science".**
4. **Puri, a city of Odisha has been awarded for its initiatives for plastic waste management with the Swachhata Darpan Awards 2019.**
5. **ICC Awards 2019**
 - Ben Stokes has won the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for Best Cricketer of the Year in ICC annual awards 2019
 - Pat Cummins has won the award for Test Cricketer of the Year in ICC annual awards 2019.
 - Rohit Sharma has won the award for ODI Cricketer of the Year in ICC annual awards 2019.
6. **Acclaimed Sindhi poet and writer Vasdev Mohi has been selected for the prestigious Saraswati Samman.**

- He has been selected for his short stories collection:- *Chequebook*, published in 2012. He has also received the Sahitya Akademi Award.
- 7. **Uttarakhand, Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre (in the institution category) and Kumar Munnan Singh (individual category) have been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2020.**
- 8. **Dr.N Kumar conferred with Harit Ratna Award 2019**
 - Dr N Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, has been conferred 'Harit Ratna Award 2019'. This award is organised by the All India Agricultural Students Association.
- 9. **Assam tableau wins first prize at 71st Republic Day parade**
 - The Tableaux of Assam wins the 1st prize at the Republic Day Parade, 2020 among the States/Union Territories. The theme of Assam's tableau was "Land of unique craftsmanship and culture".
- 10. **Abhijit Banerjee conferred with D Litt by Calcutta University**
 - Nobel laureate Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee conferred the honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) by Calcutta University at its annual convocation in Kolkata.
- 11. **Theatre artiste Sanjana Kapoor will receive the prestigious French honour**
 - Well-known theatre person, Sanjana Kapoor received the prestigious French honour of 'Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) for her outstanding contribution to the field of theatre.
- 12. **Padma Awards 2020 Announced**
 - Padma Awards — one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. This year the President has approved conferment of 141 Padma Awards including 4 duo cases (in a duo case, the award is counted as one).

PADMA VIBHUSHAN

George Fernandes(Posthumous), **Arun Jaitley**(Posthumous), Sir Anerood Jugnauth, **M. C. Mary Kom**, Chhannulal Mishra, **Sushma Swaraj**(Posthumous), Sri Vishveshateertha Swamiji Sri, Pejavara Adhokhaja Matha Udipi (Posthumous)

PADMA BHUSHAN

M. Mumtaz Ali (Sri M), Syed Muazzem Ali (Posthumous), Muzaffar Hussain Baig, **Ajoy Chakravorty** Manoj Das, Balkrishna Doshi, Krishnammal Jagannathan, S. C. Jamir, Anil Prakash Joshi, Dr. Tsering Landol, **Anand Mahindra**, Neelakanta Ramakrishna, Madhava Menon (Posthumous), Manohar Gopalkrishna, Prabhu Parrikar (Posthumous), Prof. Jagdish Sheth, **P. V. Sindhu**, Venu Srinivasan

PADMA SHRI

Guru Shashadhar Acharya, Dr. Yogi Aeron, Jai Prakash Agarwal, Jagdish Lal Ahuja, Kazi Masum Akhtar, Ms. Gloria Arieira, Khan Zaheer Khan Bakhtiyarkhan, Dr. Padmavathy Bandopadhyay, Dr. Sushovan Banerjee, Dr. Digambar Behera, Dr. Damayanti Beshra, Pawar Popatrao Bhaguji, Himmata Ram Bhambhu, Sanjeev Bikhchandani Gafurbhai M. Bilakhia, Bob Blackman, Indira P. P. Bora, Madan Singh Chauhan, Usha Chaumar, Lil Bahadur Chettri, Lalitha & Ms. Saroja Chidambaram (Duo)*, Dr. Vajira Chitrasena, Dr. Purushottam Dadheech, Utsav Charan Das, Prof. Indra Dassanayake (Posthumous), H. M. Desai, Manohar Devadoss, Oinam Bembem Devi, Lia Diskin, M. P. Ganesh, Dr. Bangalore Gangadhar, Dr. Raman Gangakhedkar, Barry Gardiner, Chewang Motup Goba, Bharat Goenka, Yadla Gopal Rao, Mitrabhanu Gountia, Tulasi Gowda, Sujoy K. Guha, Harekala Hajabba, Enamul Haque, Madhu Mansuri Hasmukh, Abdul Jabbar, (Posthumous), Bimal Kumar Jain, Meenakshi Jain, Nemnath Jain, Shanti Jain, Sudhir Jain, Benichandra Jamatia, K. V. Sampath Kumar & Ms. Vidushi Jayalakshmi K.S. (Duo)*, **Karan Johar**, Dr. Leela Joshi, Sarita Joshi, C. Kamlova, Dr. Ravi Kannan R., **Ekta Kapoor**, Yazdi Naoshirwan Karanjia, Narayan J. Joshi Karayal, Dr. Narindar Nath Khanna, Naveen Khanna, S. P. Kothari, V. K. Munusamy, Krishnapakthar, M. K. Kunjoll, Manmohan Mahapatra (Posthumous), Ustad Anwar Khan Mangniyar, Kattungal Subramaniam, Manilal, Munna Master, Prof. Abhiraj Rajendra Mishra, Binapani Mohanty, Dr. Arunoday Mondal, Dr. Prithwindra Mukherjee,

Sathyanarayan Mundayoor, Manilal Nag, N. Chandrasekharan Nair, Dr. Tetsu Nakamura(Posthumous), Shiv Datt Nirmohi, Pu Lalbiakthanga Pachuau, Moozhikkal Pankajakshi, Dr. Prasanta Kumar Pattanaik, Jogendra Nath Phukan, Rahibai Soma Popere, Yogesh Praveen, **Jitu Rai**, Tarundeep Rai, S. Ramakrishnan, **Rani Rampal**, **Kangana Ranaut**, Dalavai Chalapathi Rao, Shahbuddin Rathod, Kalyan Singh Rawat, Chintala Venkat Reddy, Dr. Shanti Roy, Radhammohan & Ms. Sabarmatee (Duo)*, Batakrushna Sahoo, Trinity Saioo, **Adnan Sami**, Vijay Sankeshwar, Dr. Kushal Konwar Sarma, Sayed Mehboob Shah Qadri alias Sayedbhai, Mohammed Sharif, Shyam Sunder Sharma, Dr. Gurdip Singh, Ramjee Singh, Vashishtha Narayan Singh, (Posthumous), Daya Prakash Sinha, Dr. Sandra Desa Souza, Vijayasarithi Sribhashyam, Kalee Shabi Mahaboob & Sheik Mahaboob Subani (Duo)*, Javed Ahmad Tak, Pradeep Thalappil, Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi, Robert Thurman, Agus Indra Udayana, Harish Chandra Verma, Sundaram Verma, Dr. Romesh Tekchand, Wadhvani, Suresh Wadkar, Prem Watsa

SPORTS

1. Indian women's team captain Rani Rampal became the 1st-ever hockey player worldwide to win the prestigious 'World Games Athlete of the Year' award 2019.
2. ICC U-19 World Cup Cricket begins in South Africa
3. Sania Mirza wins WTA doubles title in Hobart
 - Sania Mirza (India) and Nadiia Kichenok (Ukraine) have won the women's doubles title of the WTA International trophy at Hobart, Australia. They beat Shuai Peng and Shuai Zhang from China 6-4,6-4.
4. Vinesh Phogat shines with gold medal at the Rome Ranking Series held in Rome
5. Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand defeated Carolina Marin of Spain to win the Indonesia Badminton Masters 2020 women's singles title held in Jakarta, Indonesia.
6. Shooters Divyansh, Apruvi win gold at Meyton Cup in Austria
7. World Archery lifts suspension on India
 - The World Archery has lifted the suspension on India and hence allowed the Indian Archers to represent India in the upcoming International tournaments. The world body has advised the Archery Association of India to comply with the rules set up by the World Archery constitution to ensure the good governance in the sport.
8. Indian women weightlifter Sarbjeet Kaur has been banned for 4 years from the sport by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA).
9. Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah will receive the BCCI's prestigious Polly Umrigar Award for his super performance in international cricket in the 2018-19 season. World's No. 1 ODI bowler made his Test debut during India's tour of South Africa in January 2018.
10. Ladakh wins 7th National Ice Hockey Championship women trophy
11. Kento Momoto from Japan won Malaysia Masters 2020
12. National Ice Hockey Championship-2020 begins in Leh Ladakh.
13. All-rounder Irfan Pathan retires from all forms of cricket
14. Saurabh Chaudhary won the men's 10 metres air pistol gold medal at 63rd National Shooting Championship
15. K. Srikanth & Anjum Chopra to get CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award
16. India's P Magesh Chandran wins the title in the 95th edition of the prestigious Hastings International Chess Congress at Hastings in England.