

# Current Affairs Of December 2019

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## National

### Hallmarking to be mandatory for gold jewellery and artefacts

**i. Hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts** will be made **mandatory** across the country from **January 15, 2021**. The step aims to ensure the purity of the precious metal. The decision will make it compulsory for all the jewellers to register with the Bureau of Indian Standards and sell only hallmarked gold jewellery and artefacts.

**ii.** A notification in this regard will be issued on January 15 2020 and the decision will come into effect after a year.

**iii. Gold hallmarking** is a **purity certification** of the precious metal. It is voluntary in nature at present. The BIS is already running a hallmarking scheme for gold jewellery since April 2000.

**iv.** The Bureau of Indian Standards has formulated standards for hallmarking gold jewellery in 3 grades: **14 carat, 18 carat and 22 carat**.

### India becomes 1st country to make entire Haj process digital

**i.** India has become the **1st country** to make the entire process for pilgrims going on Haj completely **digital**.

**ii.** An online application, **e-visa, Haj mobile app, 'e-MASIHA'** health facility, **"e-luggage pre-tagging"** providing all information in India itself regarding accommodation and transportation in Mecca and Madina will be provided to 2 lakh Indian Muslims going for Haj in 2020.

**iii.** Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi signed the bilateral annual Haj 2020 agreement between India and Saudi Arabia with Haj and Umrah Minister of Saudi Arabia.



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

**i. Government of India (GoI) & Portugal** has decided to cooperate in

the setting up of an India's **1st National Maritime Heritage Museum** at the ancient Indian site of **Lothal in Gujarat** with the aim to boost the underwater or marine archaeology.

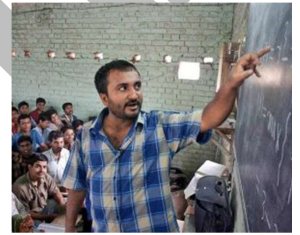
**ii.** The Museum will showcase salvaged material from shipwreck sites in the Indian Ocean waters.

### FIA invites Anand Kumar for India's Republic Day celebrations in New York

**i.** The **Federation of Indian Association (FIA)** has invited **Super 30** founder **Anand Kumar** to a function on the eve of India's Republic Day celebrations in **New York**.

**ii.** The Federation of Indian Association is the oldest organisation of the non-resident Indians. Year "2020" also marks the 50th anniversary of FIA. Anand Kumar has been invited for his contribution in the field of education through his programme 'Super 30'.

**iii.** 'Super 30' is a programme that prepares 30 students from underprivileged sections of society for the prestigious IIT entrance test every year, without any fees.



### Israeli student's made satellite "Duchifat-3" to be launched from Sriharikota

**i.** The **"Duchifat-3"**, Israeli student's made satellite will be launched from **ISRO's Sriharikota** launch site.

**ii.** "Duchifat-3" is a satellite jointly built by **Herzliya Science Center** and **Sha'ar HaNegev High School** students of Israel.

**iii.** It is a remote sensing satellite through which students from all schools across the country will be able to experiment and carry through Earth observation. "Duchifat-3" is the **3rd** in the series of **Israeli student-made satellites**.



• Duchifat-3 weighing 2.3 kg is a photo satellite to be used for ecological research of Earth from space.

### Ripu Daman Bevli as “Plogging Ambassador of India” on 50th Fit India Plogging Run

**i.**Ripu Daman Bevli was appointed as **Plogging Ambassador of India** by Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) on the 50th Fit India Plogging Run held in Delhi’s Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.



**ii.**The minister also launched the **Plogging Ambassador Mission** to nominate Indians who have been running and cleaning their cities, towns or districts as Plogging Ambassadors of their region.  
**iii.**Plog run is a unique way of picking up garbage while jogging, it was added to the Fit India Movement as an initiative to combine fitness with cleanliness like combining the Fit India Movement and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

### 1st time India’s forex reserves cross \$450 billion

**i.**The country’s foreign exchange reserves crossed the **\$450-billion mark** for the first time ever on the back of strong inflows which enabled the central bank to buy dollars from the market, thus checking any sharp appreciation of the rupee.

**ii.**India’s foreign exchange reserves were at \$451.7 billion on December 3, 2019, an increase of \$38.8 billion over end-March 2019.

**iii.**The Reserve Bank has always maintained that it intervenes in the foreign exchange market to curb volatility and does not target a particular level of the exchange rate.

### Roger Federer’s face to go on Swiss coin

**i.**Tennis legend **Roger Federer** will become the first living person in Switzerland to have a **coin minted** in his honour.



**ii.**The Federal Mint, Swissmint, has created a **20-franc silver coin** bearing Federer’s image.

**iii.**It’s the first time in its history that Swissmint has created a commemorative coin to honour a living person.

### Aberdeen in A&N Islands declare best police station in country

**i.**Aberdeen Police station in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands ranks 1st in the list of the best-performing police stations in the country while dealing with a property offence, a crime against women and weaker sections. Home Ministry released the list of ten best-performing Police stations in the country.



**ii.**Balasinor police station in Gujarat secured the **2nd rank** while and Ajk Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh got the **3rd position**.

**iii.**The ranking of police stations came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing the DGPs conference in 2015 in Kutch of Gujarat, had directed that parameters should be laid down for grading police stations and assessing their performance based on feedback.

**iv.**The ranking of top ten Police Stations out of over 15 thousand 500 Police Stations in the country was done through data analysis, direct observation and public feedback.

### ISRO begins preparations for setting up 3rd rocket launchpad

#### **i.**Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has begun

preparatory works for setting up a **3rd rocket launchpad** in the small coastal hamlet



of **Kulashekrappattinam** in the **Thuthukudi district** of **Tamil Nadu**.

**ii.**At present, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has two launch pads at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

**iii.**The demand for additional launch pads has arisen as a result of the increase in the number of satellite launches from India, both for domestic and international customers.

#### **Do You Know-**

- ISRO Director: K.Sivan; Headquarters: Bengaluru; Established: 1969.

### FASTags becomes mandatory for all vehicles from 15th December 2019

**i.**FASTags or prepaid rechargeable tags for toll collection have become mandatory for all vehicles from 15th December 2019.



**ii.**The FASTags or prepaid rechargeable tags allows automatic payment of toll. The government launched the **National Electronic Toll Collection System** which provides for the collection of user fee through FASTag to save fuel and time, curb pollution and ensure seamless movement of traffic.

**iii.**National Highways Authority of India has equipped all fee plazas with Electronic Toll Collection System.

**iv.**With the help of a FASTag, drivers will not have to stop their vehicles at toll plazas to pay tax.

**v.**A FASTag uses radio frequency identification technology to enable direct toll payments from a moving vehicle.

### India among top 10 countries with higher climate performance

**i.**India, for the first time, ranks among the top 10 in this year's **Climate Change Performance Index**



**(CCPI)** at the **COP25 climate summit** in the Spanish capital **Madrid**.

**ii.**The current levels of per capita emissions and energy use in India ranked **9th** in the high category showing that emissions are still comparatively low.

**iii.**The authors of the report noted that while the country receives an overall medium rating in the renewable energy category, India's 2030 renewable energy target is rated very high for its well-below **2 degrees Celsius compatibility**.

**iv.**They noted that as none of the countries assessed is already on a path compatible with the Paris climate targets, the **first three places of the ranking remain unoccupied**.

**v.**While some EU countries such as **Sweden (4th)** and **Denmark (5th)**, one of the best climbers, achieve overall high or very high ratings, the performance of EU countries varies largely.

**vi.**While only two G20 countries, the **UK**

**(7th)** and **India (9th)**, are ranked in the high category, eight G20 countries are remaining in the worst category of the index.

**vii.****Australia** (56th out of 61), **Saudi Arabia** and above all the **US** perform particularly poor.

**viii.**The index is jointly presented by **Germanwatch**, **NewClimate Institute** and **Climate Action Network**.

### India ranks 129th in Human Development Index 2019

**i.**India has been ranked **129th** among 189 countries in the **Human Development Index 2019** released by the **United Nations**



**Development Programme (UNDP)**.

**ii.**India was ranked 130th last year in the index. **Norway, Switzerland, Ireland** occupied the **top three** positions in the index.

**iii.**According to the report, South Asia was the fastest growing region in human development progress showing a 46% growth over 1990-2018, followed by East Asia and the Pacific at 43%.

#### Facts related to India:

- **India's** HDI value increased from 0.431 to **0.647**, which places it above the average for countries in the medium human development group (0.634) and above the average for other South Asian countries (0.642).
- In the Inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI), India was ranked 130th, losing nearly half the progress (0.647 to 0.477) made in the past 30 years.
- The IHDI indicates percentage loss in HDI due to inequalities. In the Gender Inequality Index (GII), India is at 122 out of 162 countries.
- The **Human Development Index** measures average achievement of the countries in 3 basic dimensions of human development i.e. **life expectancy, education and per capita income**.

## ISRO to launch earth observation satellite, RISAT-2BR1

**i.**The **ISRO(Indian Space Research Organisation)** will launch its earth observation



satellite, **RISAT-2BR1**

**on PSLV-C48** from the First Launch Pad (FLP) of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

**ii.**RISAT-2BR1, a Radar imaging earth observation satellite weighing about 628 kg, will be placed into an orbit of 576 km at an inclination of 37 degrees.

**iii.**PSLV-C48, which is the 50th mission of PSLV, will also carry 9 customer satellites of **Israel, Italy, Japan and USA as co-passengers.**

**iv.**These international customer satellites are being launched under a commercial arrangement with NewSpace India Limited.

## Amazon's Audible launches app "Audible Suno" in India

**i.**Amazon's audiobook company **Audible** has launched a new

app "**Audible**

**Suno**" in **India**. This app

features original audio series

which aims to expand

Audible's reach in India's highly competitive digital entertainment and streaming space.

**ii.**The platform features hundreds of hours of Audible's original audio series across a plethora of genres, steered by entertainers such as Amitabh Bachchan, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Anurag Kashyap, Tabu, Neena Gupta and Vir Das.

**Do You Know-**

- CEO and Founder of Audible: Don Katz.

## Edelweiss AMC launches India's 1st corporate bond 'Bharat Bond ETF'

**i.**Edelweiss Asset Management Company (AMC), a subsidiary of Edelweiss Capital Limited (ECL) has launched India's 1st Corporate Bond ETF (**exchange trade fund**) called the **Bharat Bond ETF**.

**ii.**The ETF is a government initiative and Edelweiss AMC was given the mandate to design and manage the product.

**iii.**Edelweiss aims to raise an initial amount of Rs 3,000 crore through this bond from institutional players with a greenshoe option of Rs 2,000 crore in the 3-year maturity period (2023) and Rs 4,000 crore with a greenshoe option of Rs 6,000 crore in the 10-year maturity bucket (2030).

**iv.**Small retail investors will have to invest at least Rs 1,000 in this fund.

**v.**After this, there is a facility for multiple investments. Here they can invest up to 2 lakhs.

**vi.**At the same time, the minimum amount for anchor investors has been fixed at Rs 10 crore.

**Do You Know-**

- Edelweiss Capital Limited Headquarters: Mumbai; Founder: Rashesh Shah.
- Edelweiss Capital Limited founded: 1995.

## Prime Minister chairs 1st meeting of National Ganga Council

**i.**Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has chaired the first meeting of the **National Ganga Council**.



**ii.**The meeting was held in **Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh**. The first meeting of the Council aimed at reinforcing the importance of a '**Ganga-centric**' approach in all departments of the concerned states as well as relevant Central Ministries.

**iii.**The Council has been given overall responsibility for superintendence of pollution prevention and rejuvenation of River Ganga Basin, including Ganga and its tributaries.

**iv.**Prime Minister urged for a holistic thinking process where 'Namami Gange' evolves to '**Arth Ganga**' or a sustainable development model with a focus on economic activities related to Ganga.

**v.**The income generated from encouraging eco-tourism and Ganga wildlife conservation and cruise tourism etc. would help to generate sustainable income streams for cleaning of Ganga.

### Nirmala Sitharaman 34th among world's 100 most powerful women: Forbes

**i.** Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has been ranked **34th** by Forbes in 'The World's 100 Most Powerful Women'. HCL Corporation CEO and Executive Director **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** and Biocon Founder **Kiran Mazumdar Shaw** are two other Indians who also featured in the above list.

**ii.** The Forbes 2019 list of 'The World's 100 Most Powerful Women' has been **topped** by German Chancellor **Angela Merkel**, followed by President of the European Central Bank **Christine Lagarde** in the **2nd** spot and Speaker of the US House of Representatives **Nancy Pelosi**, ranked **3rd**. Bangladesh's Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** also featured on the list on the **29th** position.

S.No.	Name	Country
1	Angela Merkel	Germany
2	Christine Lagarde	France
3	Nancy Pelosi	United States
4	<b>Nirmala Sitharaman</b>	<b>India</b>
4	<b>Roshni Nadar Malhotra</b>	<b>India</b>
6	<b>Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw</b>	<b>India</b>
7	Greta Thunberg	Sweden

### Viswanathan Anand launches his autobiography 'Mind Master'

**i.** **Viswanathan Anand** has launched his autobiography 'Mind Master'. Anand's autobiography is co-authored by sports journalist **Susan Ninann**.

**ii.** It has been published by THG Publishing Private Limited. The book covers wonderful memories of Viswanathan Anand's journey.

### PUMA signs Sunil Chhetri as brand ambassador

**i.** Indian men's football team captain **Sunil Chhetri** has signed a **3-year** deal with **PUMA**.

**ii.** The Bengaluru FC skipper is currently the second-highest goal-scorer in international football after **Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo**.

**iii.** He is the **most-capped Indian player** and is also the all-time top goal scorer for the Indian team.

**iv.** He has been named as the AIFF Player of the Year six times.

**v.** He was also conferred with the **Arjuna award in 2011 and Padma Shri in 2019**.



### Chennai Corporation launches India's first waste exchange platform

**i.** **Chennai Corporation, Tamil Nadu** launched India's first waste exchange platform namely "**Madras Waste Exchange**" (www.madraswasteexchange.com) to buy and sell municipal solid waste online.

**ii.** It will run on a pilot basis for the first three months. Based on the response from public and waste recyclers, more features will be added to the website.

**iii.** The Madras Waste Exchange, which is both a web portal and an application, has been conceptualised by the Smart City Mission, with support from the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.



### India and US sign defence tech transfer pact during 2+2 dialogue

**i.** **India and the US** have signed an agreement to facilitate the **transfer of defence technology**.

**ii.** During a **2+2 dialogue** held at Washington DC, the top foreign affairs and defence leaders on growing strategic relations between the world's largest and most powerful democracies.

**iii.** India and the US have a common vision of a free,



seamless and peaceful Indo-Pacific region.

iv. India has bought weapons worth more than \$15 billion from the United States over the past decade as it seeks to replace its Russian-origin military and is in talks for helicopters, armed drones and a bigger Indian plan for local production of combat planes together worth billions of dollars.

#### Do You Know-

- Minister of Defence: Raj Nath Singh; Minister of External Affairs: Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

#### Haryana Police became the first to introduce 'Trakea' software in FSL

i. Haryana police have introduced a unique barcoding software "Trakea" to enable foolproof security of the samples collected in Forensic reports.



ii. Haryana became the first state in the country to introduce this unique barcoding system.

iii. Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister (CM) of Haryana inaugurated the TRAKEA barcoding system of Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) at Madhuban, Haryana.

iv. According to the police, Trakea ensures foolproof security of the samples collected from the scene of the crime, and the forensic analysis reports, and is different from traditional methods that the state police force has been following for decades.

v. The software was developed by a software engineer Amit Mishra.

#### HDFC Bank crosses \$100 billion market capitalisation

i. HDFC Bank has become the 3rd Indian firm to cross \$100 billion mark in market capitalisation.

ii. HDFC Bank has joined the league of Reliance Industries Ltd, which has a market cap of \$140.74 billion, and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) that has a market cap of \$114.60 billion.

iii. With this achievement, HDFC Bank is now ranked 110th in the list of world's most valued companies.

iv. Among the world's most valued banks and financial

companies which have a market cap of over \$100 billion, HDFC Bank is ranked at 26th position.

#### Do You Know-

- Managing Director of HDFC Bank: Aditya Puri; Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.

#### Peugeot SA and Fiat Chrysler signs merger agreement

i. French carmaker "Peugeot SA" and US-Italian "Fiat Chrysler" have



signed an agreement to create the world's fourth largest automaker.

ii. The binding combination agreement provides a 50/50 merger of their businesses to create the 4th largest global automotive original equipment manufacturer by volume and third largest by revenue.

iii. The combined revenue of the two entities will be close to 170 billion euros i.e. \$190 billion.

iv. The combined entity will have a workforce of more than 4,00,000.

v. The combined group would be headquartered in the Netherlands.

vi. Fiat Chrysler's chief John Elkann will be the chairman and PSA's Carlos Tavares chief executive of the new entity.

#### India slips to 112th place on WEF's Global Gender Gap Report

i. India has slipped four places to rank 112th globally as per the Global Gender Gap Report 2020.

ii. The report was released by World Economic Forum

(WEF) headquartered at Geneva.

iii. Iceland has topped the report and remains the world's most gender-neutral country while Yemen was ranked the worst (153rd) in the report.

iv. As per report, the most improved countries were Albania, Ethiopia, Mali, Mexico and Spain. Among regions, Western Europe has made the most progress on gender parity



(standing at 76.7%).

v. As per WEF, the time it will take to close the gender gap has narrowed to **99.5 years** in **2019** while the number was 108 years in 2018.

vi. WEF stated that this year's **improvement** can largely be ascribed to a significant increase in the **number of women in politics**.

### Vice Prez released book 'Turbulence and Triumph: The Modi Years'

i. The Vice President of India **Venkaiah Naidu** released a book titled '**Turbulence and Triumph: The Modi Years**' in New Delhi.



ii. The book is jointly authored by **Rahul Agarwal and Bharathi S Pradhan** and is published by **Om Books International**.

iii. The book is about the life journey of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi from his days as a young boy in Gujarat till becoming the Prime Minister of India.

### Petroleum Minister unveils India's first long distance CNG bus

i. **Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister** unveiled India's first long-distance **CNG bus** fitted with **CNG cylinders** in New Delhi. It can travel around **1000 kilometres** in a single fill.

ii. The first long-range interstate CNG bus will ply from **Delhi to Dehradun**.

iii. This type of buses will soon ply between **Delhi to Jaipur, Chandigarh and Agra**.

iv. The project has been executed by **Indraprastha Gas Limited**, the largest CNG distribution company in the country.

### Sudha Murty's new book launched

i. Acclaimed author and Infosys Foundation chairman **Sudha Murty** has launched her much awaited book **The Daughter from a Wishing Tree** Unusual Tales about Women in Mythology.

ii. The book was launched at the Crossword book store in Mantri Mall recently in the presence of Biocon MD **Kiran Mazumdar Shaw** and her husband **John Shaw**. She said the book is one such story where a mother wishes for a daughter.

iii. The book, published by **Penguin Random House**

India, is the fourth in **Murtys** popular mythology series preceded by **The Serpents Revenge: Unusual Tales** from the Mahabharata, **The Man from the Egg: Unusual Tales** about the Trinity, and **The Upside-Down King: Unusual Tales** about Rama and Krishna.

### Rohtang tunnel in Himachal Pradesh named as Atal tunnel

i. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** named **Rohtang** passageway in Himachal Pradesh as **Atal Tunnel** to mark the **95th birth anniversary** of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.



ii. The tunnel has been named as a tribute to the former Prime Minister who took the historic decision of constructing this strategic tunnel.

iii. It will provide all-weather connectivity to remote areas of **Lahaul and Spiti Valley** and also reduce the distance between **Manali and Leh** by **46 Kilometres**.

### Cyclone Bulbul Live Updates: At least 12 killed in West Bengal, Odisha

i. **Cyclone Bulbul** in Odisha, West Bengal Updates: Severe cyclonic storm **Bulbul** has claimed at least 12 lives in West Bengal and Odisha.

ii. **Cyclone Bulbul** has claimed at least 12 lives in West Bengal and Odisha on Sunday. The North 24 Parganas in West Bengal was the worst-hit district which reported five deaths. The death toll from **Cyclone Bulbul** mounted to 12 in Bangladesh. According to Reuters, five fishermen in Bangladesh are still missing. The cyclone hit the coastal districts of West Bengal and Odisha on Sunday.

### A book titled "Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924" released

i. A book titled "**Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924**" is penned by Bengaluru-based historian **Vikram Sampath** and published by Penguin.

ii. This book describing the life of freedom fighter and Philosopher **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar**, popularly known as **Veer Savarkar**. This first volume of the two-volume series covers the life of **Vinayak Damodar**



Savarkar (Veer Savarkar), from his birth in 1883 to his conditional release to Ratnagiri in 1924.

### CSMT gets 'Eat Right' station certificate

**i. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) railway station in Mumbai has been conferred with 'Eat Right Station' certification**



with the five-star rating by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for food safety and hygiene.

**ii.** CSMT has been judged on the basis of compliance of food safety and hygiene, availability of healthy diet, food handling at preparation, food waste management, promotion of local and seasonal food and creating awareness on food safety and healthy diet.

**iii.** 'Eat Right Station' initiative is a part of the 'Eat Right India' movement launched by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and a Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) major which is aimed at promoting food safety and hygiene at the static catering units at railway stations.

### Tamil Nadu tops 'Good Governance Index' launched by GoI

**i.** The Central Government has released the "Good Governance Index" on the occasion of Good Governance Day.



**ii.** The "Good Governance Index" was launched to assess the state of governance in Indian States and Union Territories.

**iii.** The Index was launched by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, and the Centre for Good Governance.

**Some key results of the day:**

- Among the "Big States", Tamil Nadu topped the Good Governance Index. The poor performers are Odisha, Bihar, Goa, and Uttar Pradesh with Jharkhand finishing last in the group.

- Among the "North-East and Hill States", Himachal Pradesh topped the index, followed by Uttarakhand, Tripura, Mizoram and Sikkim.
- The worst performers in this group are Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, with Arunachal Pradesh finishing last in the group.
- Among the "Union Territories", Puducherry topped the index followed by Chandigarh and Delhi. Lakshwadeep is the worst performing UT.

### Integral Coach Factory produces 3000 Coaches in record 215 days

**i.** Integral Coach Factory (ICF) of Indian Railways has produced its 3000 Coaches in record 215 days.



**ii.** The 64-year-old production unit beat its own record by reducing the number of working days to achieve the target of making 3,000 coaches in 289 days in 2018-19 to 215 days this year and retained its position as the largest coach-maker in the world.

#### Do You Know-

- Headquarters of Integral Coach Factory: Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Established: 2nd October 1955.

### Hemant Soren to take oath as Jharkhand CM on Dec 29

**i.** In Jharkhand, Grand Alliance leader Hemant Soren will take oath as Chief Minister on the 29th of this month.

**ii.** He was formally elected the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) legislature party leader.

**iii.** He was projected as the chief ministerial candidate by the JMM, Congress and RJD Alliance that gained the majority in the recently concluded Assembly polls.

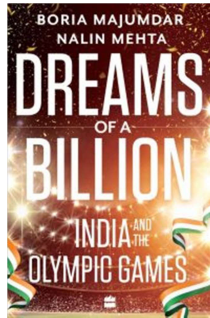
### India world's 3rd largest producer of Scientific Articles

**i.** India has emerged as the world's third-largest publisher of science and engineering articles, according to a latest US report. In 2008, India

published **48,998** science and engineering articles.  
**ii.** This increased to **1,35,788 articles in 2018** and the country now accounts for 5.31 per cent of the total world publications in science and engineering.  
**iii.** **China**, which accounts for 20.67 per cent of all global publications in scientific articles, is at the top position, followed by the **US** at 16.54 per cent, as per the statistics compiled by the US National Science Foundation (NSF).

### Book to chronicle India's Olympic journey

**i.** A book titled **"Dreams of a Billion: India and the Olympic Games"** author by **Boria Majumdar** with **Nalin Mehta** released. The book will be published by **HarperCollins India** in January 2020.



**ii.** The book comprises of all the wins, the misses, the star sportspersons, their stories, and the challenges and possibilities that lie ahead of India to make its mark in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.  
**iii.** The book provides an inside view of what goes on backstage in the Indian Olympics world alongside a quick history of how India has fared at the Olympics over the past century and a look at how the Indian Olympics world has changed in the last decade.

### A book titled "Politics of Opportunism" released by S Gurumurthy

**i.** Noted Economist and Political Analyst **S Gurumurthy** released a book titled **"Politics of Opportunism: Regional Parties, Coalitions, Centre-State Relations In India"**.

**ii.** The book is authored by **R P N Singh**. The book throws light on the subject related to rise of regional parties and Centre-States relation.

**iii.** **RNP Singh** is a former officer of the **Intelligence Bureau**, Government of India. He has also earned the coveted Presidents Police Medal, Indian Police Medal, the Sukriti and Kautilya awards for his distinguished services.

## International

### Saudi Arabia takes over G20 Presidency from Japan

**i.** The **G20 Presidency** has been taken over by **Saudi Arabia** from Japan. Saudi Arabia has become the 1st Arab nation to assume the G20 presidency.



**ii.** The Saudi G20 presidency is committed to continue the work from Osaka (Japan) and promote the multilateral consensus.

**iii.** The G20 presidency, which Saudi Arabia has taken over from Japan, will host world leaders for a global summit in its capital Riyadh in 2020.

### Bangabandhu BPL inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

**i.** Prime Minister of Bangladesh **Sheikh Hasina** inaugurated the special edition of **Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL) T20**



cricket championship to mark **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's** birth centenary in 2020.

**ii.** A total of 7 teams are participating in the BBPL event. They will play 46 matches including the 4 playoff matches.

**iii.** The BBPL final will be held on January 17, 2020.

**iv.** This is the first time that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is organizing the Premier League matches without involving any franchise.

### NATO Summit 2019 in Watford, United Kingdom

**i.** The **United Kingdom (UK)** hosted two days organised **2019 NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Summit in London**.

**ii.** The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the summit. It was attended by NATO leaders and chaired by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

**iii.** The purpose of the summit was to make the heads of state and heads of government of NATO member countries to evaluate and provide strategic direction for Alliance activities.

**Do You Know-**

- Member countries of NATO: 29; Founded: 4 April 1949.
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.

### World's First commercial electric plane takes flight in Canada

**i.**The world's first fully-electric commercial aircraft took its inaugural test flight, taking off from the Canadian city of Vancouver and flying for 15 minutes.

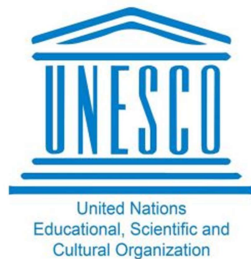


**ii.**A 62-year-old six-passenger **DHC-2 de Havilland Beaver seaplane** re-fitted with a fully electric **750 horsepower motor** was piloted by **Greg McDougall**, founder and chief executive of Harbour Air, a British Columbia-based charter airline that transport passengers between Vancouver.

**iii.****MagniX** designed the motor and worked in partnership with **Harbour Air** which ferries thousands of people a year between Vancouver, Whistler ski resort and nearby islands.

### Nuad Thai massage included in UNESCO heritage list

**i.**Thailand's famous 2000-year-old massage, **Nuad Thai** was added to UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) prestigious heritage list.



**ii.**Nuad Thai is an intense form of massage in which the body is pulled and rotated well with the help of the thumb, elbow, knees and feet.

**iii.**Thai massage originated in India and brought it to Thailand about 2,500 years ago by doctors and monks who carried its secrets for generations.

#### Do You Know-

- UNESCO formation: 4 November 1946.
- UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France.
- UNESCO Director-General: Audrey Azoulay.

### Google Earth covers 98 percent of entire population

**i.**Search engine giant **Google** has revealed that its powerful mapping service, **Google Earth** now covers more than **98 per cent of the world**, and has captured 10 million miles of Street View imagery, a distance that could circle the globe more than 400 times.

**ii.**Google Earth, the software that lets you browse the globe with 3D representation, right from the comfort of your couch, offers 6 million square miles of high definition satellite images, covering more than 98 per cent of the entire population.

### Unesco removes 'racist' Belgian carnival from heritage list

**i.**UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), has removed the '**Carnival of Aalst**' of Belgium from its **Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity List**.



**ii.**The 2019 carnival featured a parade float that included racist and anti-Semitic representations which mocked the Orthodox Jews.

**iii.**The carnival was added to the Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2010.

### Donald Trump becomes 3rd US President to be impeached

**i.****Donald Trump** has become the **third US President** in history to be **impeached** by the **House of Representatives**. The impeachment will led to **setting up a trial in the Senate** that will decide whether Trump will remain in office or not.

**ii.**The House of Representatives formally charged Donald Trump with abuse of power.

**iii.**The Democratic-led House passed the abuse of power article of impeachment on a largely party-line 230-197 vote. Although, no President in the 243-year history of the United States has been removed from office by impeachment.

**iv.**Only two previous presidents have been impeached in the US history. The House in 1998 impeached President **Bill Clinton** while President **Andrew Johnson** was impeached in 1868.

### Turkey historic mosque moved before dam waters rise

i. In Turkey, the main body of the 610-year-old **Er-Rizk mosque** was removed from the town of **Hasankeyf** ahead of its submergence as part of a **Ilisu dam** project.



ii. The **Ilisu Dam** will generate 1,200 megawatts of electricity, making it Turkey's fourth-largest dam in terms of energy production.

### Eight West African nations rename common currency to Eco

i. Eight West African countries have agreed to change the name of their common currency to **Eco** and severed their earlier currency **CFA**



**France's** links to former colonial ruler France.

ii. **Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo** currently use the currency. All the countries are former French colonies with the exception of Guinea-Bissau.

iii. The **CFA franc**, created in 1945, was seen by many as a sign of French interference in its former African colonies even after the countries became independent.

### Indian-American computer scientist to lead National Science Foundation in USA

i. US President Donald Trump has picked Indian-American computer scientist **Sethuraman Panchanathan** to lead the prestigious **National Science Foundation (NSF)** in USA.



ii. The **NSF** is a US government agency that supports fundamental research and education in all the non-medical fields of science and engineering.

**Panchanathan** would succeed **France Cordova** when her six-year term as the **NSF Director** ends in 2020.

iii. **Panchanathan** is currently the Executive Vice President and the Chief Research and Innovation Officer at **Arizona State University**. He is also the

Founding Director of the Centre for Cognitive Ubiquitous Computing at the **ASU**.

### Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg steps down

i. Boeing CEO **Dennis**

**Muilenburg** has stepped down as the company is facing tough period following two fatal crashes.



ii. He will be replaced by Chairman **David**

**Calhoun** effective January 13, 2020.

iii. He became the CEO of the world's largest aerospace company in July 2015.

iv. The company's best selling commercial jet was grounded worldwide in March 2019 after two fatal crashes killed 346 people.

### WHO 1st time approved Biosimilar of "Trastuzumab" for breast cancer treatment

i. The **World Health Organization**

(**WHO**) announced that for the 1st time it had approved a "**biosimilar**" medicine

of **Trastuzumab** named "**Ontruzant**" to make

cheaper **breast cancer treatment** at an affordable rate to women globally.

ii. The medicine is derived from living sources rather than chemicals. The biosimilar medicine of the **Trastuzumab** drug was supplied by **Samsung Bioepis co Ltd**.



### International Astronomical Union names new star 'Sharjah'

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

**Do You Know-**

- International Astronomical Union  
Headquarters: Paris, France.

- International Astronomical Union Founded: 28 July 1919.

### Christina Koch records longest single spaceflight by woman

i.NASA

Astronaut **Christina Koch** has created a record for the **longest single spaceflight** by a **woman**.



She has surpassed the **earlier record of 288 days** in space which was previously established by NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson in 2017.

ii.She would return to Earth in February 2020. Till then, she would have spent **more than 300 days** in the space. She is **onboard** the International Space Station since **14th March 2019**.

iii.The world record for the single longest mission by any space explorer whether man or woman, is held by cosmonaut Valery Polyakov, who spent 438 consecutive days on board Russia's former space station Mir from January 1994 to March 1995.

## Defence

### India-Sri Lanka joint exercise "MITRA SHAKTI" begins

i.The 7th

edition of India-Sri

Lanka joint

exercise "MITRA

SHAKTI" begins

at

Aundh Military

Station, **Pune**.



ii.It aims to build and promote positive relations between armies of both the countries focusing sub unit level training on counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in urban and rural environment.

iii.The bilateral exercise also signifies the strength of India-Sri Lanka relations in the field of military cooperation and engagement.

### Exercise Hand-in-Hand 2019

i.The 8th India-China joint

training exercise 'HAND-

IN-HAND 2019' with the

theme **counter-**

**terrorism** under United

Nations mandate is

scheduled to be conducted

at **Umroi, Meghalaya** from 07 to 20 December 2019.

ii.The Chinese contingent from the Tibet Military command comprising of 130 personal and the Indian Contingent of similar strength will participate in the 14-day long training exercise.

iii.The aim of the exercise is to practice joint planning and conduct of counter-terrorist operations in semi-urban terrain.



### Exercise INDRA 2019

i.Exercise INDRA 2019 a

joint, tri-services exercise

between **India and**

**Russia** will be conducted

in India from 10-19

December 2019

simultaneously at **Babina (near Jhansi), Pune, and Goa**.

ii.The contingents of both countries will share expertise and their professional experience.



iii. The esprit-de-corps and goodwill shall be the key areas during the exercise which will facilitate the further strengthening of bonds between the defence forces of India and Russia.

iv. The INDRA series of exercise began in 2003 and the First joint Tri-Services Exercise was conducted in 2017, It will be a historic occasion for two of the world's greatest Armed Forces to join hands and successfully conduct an exercise of this magnitude with professionalism, to imbibe the best practices from each other, jointly evolve and drills to defeat the scourge of terror under the United Nation mandate.

### Rafale jet tail numbers to feature former Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa's

i. The Indian Rafale fighter jets will fly with the tail sign 'BS' after the recently retired Air Force Chief Birender Singh Dhanoa. The



Indian Air Force has decided to put tail numbers in 30 Rafale jets with "BS" initials.

ii. Six Rafale trainer aircraft will carry RB series tail numbers which stand for Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, the current Chief of Air Staff who played a key role as lead negotiator for the mega-deal.

### Do You Know-

- Indian Airforce founded: 8 October 1932, India.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.

### China launches its largest carrier rocket "Long March-5"

i. China has successfully launched its largest carrier rocket "Long March-5". The



rocket was launched from Wenchang Space Launch Center in south China's Hainan Province. The rocket is also known as CZ-5. It was China's third attempt to launch the rocket.

ii. The Chinese rocket carried the Shijian-20 satellite, a communication satellite and placed it into its

designated orbit. The Shijian-20 satellite will lay the foundation for the development of highly sensitive space probes.

iii. It is China's heaviest and most advanced communications satellite in geosynchronous orbit.

### Do You Know-

- Capital of China: Beijing; Currency: Renminbi.

### Russia deploys its 1st Avangard Hypersonic missile system

i. Russia's 1st missile unit equipped with Avangard Hypersonic glide vehicle enters into service. Russia's



defence ministry stated that a new hypersonic weapon with latest strategic missiles of intercontinental range has become operational.

ii. The nuclear-capable missiles can travel more than 20 times the speed of sound. They have a "glide system" that affords great manoeuvrability and could make them impossible to defend against.

iii. The Avangard can carry a nuclear weapon of up to 2 megatons. Avangard is designed using new composite materials to withstand temperatures of up to 2,000 Celsius resulting from a flight through the atmosphere at hypersonic speeds.

### Do You Know-

- President of Russia: Vladimir Putin; Capital: Moscow; Currency: Russian Ruble.

### IAF bids farewell to the iconic "MiG-27" fighter aircraft

i. The Indian Air Force bids farewell to the iconic "MiG-27" with a decommissioning ceremony at the Jodhpur



air base. The Mig 27 is a soviet origin aircraft that was built under licence by HAL and became a part of the IAF strike fleet in 1985.

ii. The jet contributed significantly in wars and peace-keeping operations and also emerged as the real hero in the 1999 Kargil war. It's contribution in the Kargil

war earned it the title 'Bahadur'.

### Do You Know-

- Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria is the present Chief of the Air Staff.
- Indian Air Force was founded on 8 October 1932.
- Headquarters of IAF: New Delhi.

### Exercise Surya Kiran-XIV held in Nepal

**i.** A joint military training exercise "SURYA KIRAN-XIV" was held in Salijhandi, Rupendehi district of Nepal.

**ii.** The exercise was conducted between the armies of India and Nepal.

**iii.** Joint training exercise was based on counter insurgency operations in jungle and mountainous terrain and also practised response mechanism in the eventualities of natural and man made disasters.

## Appointments or Resign/Retired

### Soma Roy Burman becomes new Controller General of Accounts

**i.** Soma Roy Burman has assumed the charge of new Controller General of Accounts (CGA). She is the 24th CGA and the seventh woman to hold this coveted position.

**ii.** She has replaced J P S Chawla. Prior to assuming the charge of CGA, Burman served as Additional Controller General of Accounts in the office of the CGA.



### Lt Gen P S Rajeshwar takes over as C-n-C of Andaman & Nicobar Command

**i.** Lt Gen Podali Shankar Rajeshwar took over as the 14th Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN).

**ii.** He is a graduate of Indian Military Academy and was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery in December 1980.

**iii.** A gunner and aviator, he is an alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, Army War College and National Defence College in New Delhi and Philippines. **iv.** He has actively taken part in Operation Meghdoot and Operation Rakshak.



### Hari Mohan takes over as Chairman, Ordnance Factory Board

**i.** Hari Mohan has taken over the charge as Chairman, Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).

**ii.** He will replace Saurabh

Kumar who superannuated from the services.

**iii.** He is a 1982-batch Indian Ordnance Factories' Service (I.O.F.S.) officer with Post Graduate Degree in Mechanical Engineering.

**iv.** Hari Mohan has contributed significantly in various positions in Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) Hardwar, Vehicle Factory Jabalpur, Engine Factory



ORDNANCE FACTORY BOARD

Avadi, Heavy Vehicle Factory Avadi, Ammunition Factory Khadki, Ordnance Factory Bolangir, Ordnance Factory Chanda, Ordnance Factory Dehu Road, OFB New Delhi Office and Ministry of Steel & Mines.

#### Do You Know-

- Ordnance Factory Board Founded: 1712.
- Ordnance Factory Board Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal.

#### Pritivirajsing Roopun elected as new President of Mauritius by parliament

i.The National Assembly of Republic of Mauritius has unanimously elected **Prithvirajsing Roopun**, as new **President** of the island nation, a largely ceremonial post.



ii.He was former arts and culture minister of the country. In Mauritius, Prime Minister is head of government and holds most political power while the president is head of state but has no executive role and is considered guardian of the constitution.

#### Do You Know-

- The Prime Minister of Mauritius: Pravind Kumar Jugnauth.

#### Masatsugu Asakawa elected ADB President

i.The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** board has unanimously elected **Masatsugu Asakawa** as its new president.



ii.He is currently a special advisor to Japan's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, will assume office as ADB's 10th President on January 17, 2020.

iii.He will succeed Takehiko Nakao, who will leave office on January 16, 2020. iv.He served as a Visiting Professor at the University of Tokyo from 2012 to 2015 and at Saitama University from 2006 to 2009.

#### Do You Know-

- ADB established: 1966, ADB is owned by 68 members.

#### Sundar Pichai promoted as Alphabet Inc. CEO

i.**Sundar Pichai** promoted as **Alphabet Inc. CEO** after Google co-founders **Larry Page** and **Sergey Brin** have announced that they are stepping down from the leadership role of the parent company Alphabet.

ii.Google CEO Indian-American **Sundar Pichai** will be assuming the role of Alphabet Inc CEO, making him one of the most powerful corporate leaders of the world.

iii.Alphabet and Google no longer need two CEOs and a President and **Sundar Pichai** will be the CEO of both Google and Alphabet.

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#### News Broadcasters Federation elects **Arnab Goswami** as governing board president

i.The **News Broadcasters Federation (NBF)**, the country's largest association of over 78 news channels, has elected editor-in-chief of Republic TV **Arnab Goswami** as the President of its governing board.



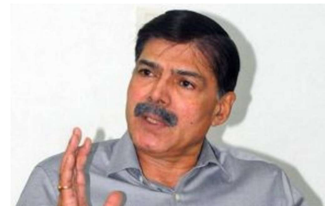
ii.The body of 78 news channels in 14 languages, representing broadcasters from 25 states. The new self-regulatory organization in order to bring in transparent self-regulation on content will be announced by the end of January 2020.

#### Do You Know-

- News Broadcasters Federation formation: July 2009.

#### **K Vijay Kumar** appointed senior security advisor in **MHA**

i.**K Vijay Kumar** has been appointed as a **senior security advisor** in the **Union Home Ministry** headed by **Amit Shah**.



ii.The 1975 batch officer of Indian Police Service will "advise the ministry on security-related matters of



Union Territory of J&K and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States.

**iii.** He will be in the position for a period of **1-year** from the date of his taking charge.

**iv.** He has served as Director-General of CRPF, Director of National Police Academy in Hyderabad and his most talked-about stint was as the chief of the Tamil Nadu police special task force that killed forest brigand Veerappan in 2004.

**v.** After his retirement from service and as DG, CRPF in 2012, Kumar was appointed as senior security advisor LWE in the Home Ministry then headed by Rajnath Singh.

### **Girish Chandra Chaturvedi appointed as new chairman of NSE**

**i.** The **National Stock Exchange of India**

**Ltd (NSE)** has appointed **Girish Chandra**

**Chaturvedi** as its new chairman.

**ii.** The appointment was approved by Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

**iii.** Girish Chandra Chaturvedi is a retired IAS officer and former Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

**iv.** He is presently on the board of ICICI Bank and the member of the government appointed board of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS).



### **Pepsico appoints Salman Khan as Pepsi's new brand ambassador**

**i.** PepsiCo has appointed actor **Salman Khan** as the new brand ambassador of its flagship **Pepsi** brand of

carbonated beverage in India. **ii.** Brand Pepsi will base its summer 2020 campaign on Salman Khan's upcoming movie "Dabangg-3".

**iii.** PepsiCo India will launch a 360 degree campaign to leverage the new association.



**iv.** Salman Khan has also represented the Pepsico's product "Thums Up" three years ago.

### **Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane to be next Army Chief**

**i.** Lt Gen **Manoj Mukund Naravane** will be the next **Chief of Army Staff of India.**

**ii.** He is currently serving as Vice Chief of the Army. Lt Gen Naravane

will succeed **Gen Bipin Rawat**, who will retire on the 31st December.

**iii.** He has served in numerous command and staff appointments in peace, field and highly active counter-insurgency environments in Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast.

**iv.** In a distinguished military career spanning almost four decades, Lt Gen Naravane has the distinction of tenancing key appointments in active Counter Insurgency environments, both in the North East and in Jammu and Kashmir and was a part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka during Operation PAWAN.



### **Finland elects Sanna Marin, the youngest-ever Prime Minister**

**i.** Finland's **Social Democrats** elected 34-year-old **Sanna Marin** to the post of the prime minister, making her the youngest head of government in the country's history.

**ii.** Her appointment is unlikely to lead to significant policy changes by the Social Democrat-led administration.

### **British PM Boris Jhonson re-elected as Prime Minister of UK**

**i.** British Prime Minister **Boris Johnson** has won the historic UK General Election as his Conservative Party crossed the magic number of 326 required for a majority in the Parliament.

**ii.** He is re-elected as a Prime Minister of UK.

**iii.** Johnson won the historic election as his **Conservative Party** crossed the 326-mark required for a majority in Parliament.

**iv.** The latest projections put the Johnson-led Conservatives at around **365**, but the party can safely

celebrate its victory as it comfortably crossed over the half-way finish line for the **650-member House of Commons**. v. The Opposition Labour party is projected to get **203 seats**, a disastrous performance for the party which resulted in leader **Jeremy Corbyn** announced that he would be stepping down.

#### Former HC Judge CV Ramulu appointed as Telangana Lokayukta

- i. Former High Court Judge **Justice CV Ramulu** has been appointed as the **Lokayukta of Telangana**. Former Law Secretary **V Niranjan Rao** has been appointed as **Upa Lokayukta**.
- ii. The governor also appointed another former judge Justice **G Chandraiah** as **Chairman of the State Human Rights Commission**.
- iii. This is the first time that the state government has constituted the Lokayukta and Human Rights Commission since the state was formed in 2014.

#### IPS officer Atul Karwal appointed as Director of National Police Academy

- i. The Union Government appointed a senior Gujarat Cadre IPS officer **Atul Karwal**, as **Director of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy** in Hyderabad.
- ii. He is a 1988 batch IPS officer, is currently posted as Additional Director General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

#### Cuba names Manuel Marrero Cruz to be first PM since 1976

- i. In Cuba, President has appointed **Manuel Marrero Cruz** as the **country's first prime minister in more than 40 years**.



- ii. Marrero, who has served as tourism minister for 16 years and is an architect by trade, helped boost Cuba's economy by making tourism one of the engines of growth.
- iii. The post of prime minister was scrapped in **1976** by the then-revolutionary leader Fidel Castro.

#### Do You Know-

- President of Cuba: Miguel Díaz-Canel; Capital of Cuba: Havana.
- Currency of Cuba: Cuban peso.

#### Monisha Ghosh named 1st woman CTO at FCC in US

- i. Indian-American **Dr Monisha Ghosh** has been appointed as the first woman Chief Technology Officer at the US government's powerful **Federal Communications Commission (FCC)**.



- ii. She will advise Indian-American Chairman of the FCC **Ajit Pai** and the agency on technology and engineering issues, and work closely with the Office of Engineering and Technology.
- iii. Dr Ghosh will take charge on January 13. She replaces Dr Eric Burger.

#### Sangita Reddy appointed as the President of FICCI for 2019-20

- i. **Sangita Reddy**, Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Group, has taken over as the President of



#### the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) for 2019-20.

- ii. She succeeds **Sandip Somany**, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, HSIL.
- iii. President of The Walt Disney Company APAC & Chairman of Star & Disney India, **Uday Shankar** has been elevated as **Senior Vice President of FICCI**.
- iv. Similarly, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), **Sanjiv Mehta** was appointed as the **Vice President of FICCI**.

#### Do You Know-

- FICCI Established: 1927; FICCI Headquarters: New Delhi.

### Harsh Vardhan Shringla appointed new Foreign Secretary

**i.** Senior diplomat **Harsh Vardhan Shringla**, India's Ambassador to the US, has been appointed as the **new Foreign Secretary**.



**ii.** He is a 1984-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service. He will take over the charge of the foreign secretary on January 29 from incumbent **Vijay Gokhale**.

**iii.** The appointment has been cleared by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### Niranjan Hiranandani takes over as Assocham president

**i.** **Niranjan Hiranandani** has taken over as the new **president** of **The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India** (Assocham), the country's apex organisation of industry and trade.

**ii.** He will **succeed Balkrishan Goenka**, the Welspun Group Chairman.

**iii.** Niranjan Hiranandani is the Co-Founder and Managing Director of the Hiranandani Group of Companies.

### Mahinda Rajapaksa sworn in as Sri Lanka's new prime minister

**i.** Mahinda Rajapaksa on Thursday took oath as the Sri Lanka's new prime minister, days after his younger brother was elected president, cementing the powerful and controversial Rajapaksa clan's grip on political power in the island nation.

**ii.** Mahinda, the 23rd prime minister, was administered the oath by his younger sibling and newly-elected President Gotabhaya Rajapaksa at the Presidential Secretariat.

### Gen Bipin Rawat named as country's 1st Chief of Defence Staff

**i.** Indian Army **General Bipin Rawat** has been named as the country's **first Chief of Defence Staff** (CDS). The Chief of Defence Staff will be



a **4-star General**, the principal military advisor to the defence minister, and will head the new Department of Military Affairs.

**ii.** The Chief of Defence Staff will ensure the jointness in training, logistics and procurement of the three services. General Rawat is the first officer to hold the post of the Chief of Defence Staff

**iii.** The **Defence Ministry** had also **amended** the army, air force and navy rules by bringing in a new clause that allows the CDS to serve upto a maximum **age of 65 years**.

**iv.** The CDS will administer all tri-services organisations, but their command will be with the Chief of the service which has a predominant role in their functioning.



## Honours/ Awards

### Mumbai Central gets first 'Eat Right Station' certification from FSSAI

i. The **Mumbai Central station of Railways** was conferred with the 'Eat Right Station' certification with four stars rating by the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**, as a part of 'Eat Right India' movement launched last year. The Mumbai Central Railway Station is the country's first "Eat Right Station."

ii. Mumbai Central station has been judged on the basis of compliance of food safety and hygiene, availability of healthy diet, food handling at preparation, transportation and retail/serving point, food waste management, promotion of local and seasonal food and creating awareness on food safety and healthy diet.

iii. The focus of the movement is on improving the health and well-being of people by ensuring they eat healthily.

iv. 'Eat Right India' movement is built on two broad pillars of 'Eat Healthy' and 'Eat Safe'. It aims to engage, excite and enable citizens to improve their health and well-being.

### 'Joker' fame Joaquin Phoenix named 2019 'Person of the Year' by PETA

i. 'Joker'

fame **Joaquin**

**Rafael**

**Phoenix**, American actor from

California, United

States (US) has been

bestowed with the **PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) 'Person of the Year' Award 2019**.

ii. Joaquin Phoenix has been a vegan since the age of three and has been a supporter of PETA for a long time.

iii. He has recently appeared in an advertisement of PETA titled "We are all animals", which was displayed in the Times Square and Sunset billboards to promote the prohibition of travelling wild-animal circuses.



### New Zealand wins MCC's Spirit of Cricket award

i. The **New Zealand cricket team** has been awarded

the **Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket award**.

ii. The team has been awarded for its exemplary show of sportsmanship during the final match of the ICC World Cup at Lord's in July 2019, which it lost under controversial circumstances.

iii. **Martin-Jenkins** was the former **MCC president** and **BBC Test Match Special commentator**.



### Lionel Messi wins Ballon d'Or for 6th time

i. Barcelona forward **Lionel Messi** has won the **Ballon d'Or award** for the world's best player for a record **6th time**.

ii. It is the 32-year-old Argentine's first Ballon d'Or since 2015 and

comes after he scored 54 times for club and country in 2018-19, in which Barca won La Liga.

iii. **Virgil van Dijk** was second-one of four Liverpool players in the top seven, including Sadio Mane in fourth.

iv. **Juventus and Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo**, who has won the award five times, was **third** in the voting.



### "Shilpa Shetty App" wins in 2019 Google Play Awards

i. Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty's fitness app "**Shilpa Shetty App**" has been awarded Google Play's Best Apps of 2019.

ii. The app was awarded in the category of '**Personal Growth**'.

### ET Lifetime of Public Service Award for Former FM (Late) Arun Jaitley

i. **Arun Jaitley** former Finance Minister of India was bestowed with the **Economic Times (ET) Lifetime Achievement Award** for Public Service 2019.

ii. The award was received by Arun Jaitley's spouse Sangeeta Jaitley.

iii. Arun Jaitley was the former Finance Minister of India, he was also the Minister of Corporate Affairs from May 2014 to May 2019, Minister of Defence from March 2017 to September 2017, Minister of Information and Broadcasting from November 2014 to July 2016, Minister of Law and Justice from July 2003 to May 2004 and Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting from October 1999 to September 2000.

#### 4 eminent diplomats honoured with 2019 'Diwali – Power of One Award

i. The 4 prominent diplomats have been honoured with 'The Diwali –



**'Power of One' award 2019** in recognition and celebration of their work, especially at the United Nations, for a secure and peaceful world.

The diplomats who were honoured are:

- Former foreign minister and Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to UN: **Kairat Abdrakhmanov**.
- Former Permanent Representative of Cyprus to UN: **Nicholas Emiliou**.
- Former Chef de Cabinet to President of 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and Permanent Representative of Slovakia to UN: **Frantisek Ruzicka**.
- Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN: **Volodymyr Yelchenko**.
- The awards which have now come to be known as '**Oscars of Diplomacy**' were established by Diwali Foundation USA, Inc in 2017. The awards seek to promote a peaceful and consensus-based process to achieve societal good, as befitting high hopes and ideals of humanity enshrined in the UN Charter.

#### Kamareddy wins Unicef-2019 Award for Swachh Bharat implementation

i. Kamareddy district of Telangana has secured the United Nations International Children's and Education Fund (Unicef)-2019 Award.

ii. The district has won the award for effective implementation of **Swachh Bharat Mission** in water sanitation and hygiene sectors.

iii. Kamareddy district was on top in the country among other districts in construction of individual **sanitary lavatories, swachh darpan wall paintings, swachh survekshan, swachh sundar shouchalay** and many other activities.

#### Abu Dhabi selected as world's leading sports tourism destination

i. Abu Dhabi (UAE) has been selected as the world's leading Sports tourism Destination at the 26th edition of the World Travel Awards (WTA) being held in Muscat, Oman.



ii. This is the 7th time in a row that Abu Dhabi has been selected for this coveted award. The award is the latest in several prestigious accolades gained by Abu Dhabi this year, including being selected as the West Asia's Leading Business Tourism Destination at the West Asia edition of WTA and Best City Break at the UK's Selling Travel Agents' Choice Awards.

iii. Abu Dhabi shined as a premium destination once again for sports tourism in 2019 after hosting so Abu Dhabi one of the world's top sporting events, such as the FIFA Club World Cup 2017 and 2018, the first edition of the UAE Tour, the AFC Asian Cup 2019, the Special Olympics World Games 2019, the UFC 242 showdown and the Brazil vs South Korea international friendly match.

iv. Sports tourism has been labelled by the **United Nations World Travel Organisation, UNWTO**, as one of the fastest-growing sectors of tourism worldwide. World Travel Awards was established in 1993 to acknowledge, reward and celebrate excellence across all key sectors of the travel, tourism and hospitality industries.

### Greta Thunberg named Time Person of the Year for 2019

i. Sweden's Greta Thunberg has been named as Time magazine's Person of the Year for 2019.

ii. Greta Thunberg is the Swedish schoolgirl who inspired a global movement to fight climate change and became popular with the "#FridaysForFuture".

iii. She is the youngest person to be chosen by the magazine in a tradition that started in 1927.

iv. TIME is also expanding Person of the Year to reflect the full range of subjects that TIME covers.

v. For the first time, TIME has chosen the most influential person in a range of fields



S.No.	Name	Profession	Category
1	Greta Thunberg	Climate activist	Person of the Year
2	Bob Iger	Chairman and CEO of The Walt Disney Company	Businessperson of the Year
3	The Public Servants	Federal workers of the US	Guardians of the Year
4	United States women's national soccer team	Women's Soccer	Athlete of the Year
5	Melissa Jefferson (Lizzo)	Singer	Entertainer of the Year

### Gulu Mirchandani bags CEAMA Lifetime Achievement Award

i. Gulu Mirchandani has been conferred with "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association.

ii. Gulu Mirchandani is the founder chairman of Mirc Electronics Ltd. (Onida).

iii. He has been awarded for his extensive contribution to the consumer electronics industry.

iv. He has been associated with consumer electronics industry for more than 3 decades.

v. Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA) is an all-India organisation in the consumer electronics and durables sector. It has been in existence for over three decades.



### Rani Rampal, Saurabh Chaudhary Win Top Honours at FICCI India Sports Awards

i. Indian women's hockey team captain Rani Rampal and ace pistol shooter Saurabh Chaudhary won the Sports Person of the Year awards at the FICCI India Sports Awards 2019.

ii. The FICCI India Sports Awards are an attempt by FICCI to acknowledge and recognise the contribution of sportspersons and various stakeholders who deliver excellent results throughout the year.

iii. Rani played a crucial role in India's qualification for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, scoring the winning goal in the two-legged qualifier against the US in November.

iv. Saurabh, on the other hand, is touted as India's biggest hope for a medal in shooting in Tokyo. He won gold at the 2018 Asian Games and has since won a number of individual and team honours at shooting World Cups.



### Priyanka Chopra honoured at Marrakech Film Festival

**i.** Indian actress **Priyanka Chopra** was honoured at the **Marrakech Film Festival** held at the famous **Jemaa el Fna square**.



**ii.** Priyanka Chopra was **honoured for her 20 years of work** and contribution in **cinema**.

**iii.** Hollywood actor Robert Redford, Moroccan actress Mouna Fettou and filmmaker Bertrand Tavernier were among other people who were honoured at the festival.

### Gurgaon-based startup won 'Space Oscar' award

**i.** The Gurugram-based startup blue Sky Analytics has created an application called '**Zuri**' that won the **Copernicus Masters Award** also called **Space Oscars**, under the Social Entrepreneurship category.



**ii.** The award was given by the Earth observation program managed by the **European Commission (EU)** in partnership with the **European Space Agency (ESA)**.

**iii.** The application uses satellite data to provide improved monitoring, supply chain and pricing analysis as well as the allocation of crop waste to be used as raw materials in other industries.

**iv.** The application includes an AI (Artificial Intelligence)- based tool to measure and monitor farm fires and stubble burning across India, million tons of crops are being burnt in India on farms to clear the field for new crops every winter, as a result releasing massive amounts of greenhouse gases which have led to increased level of pollution in New Delhi and other parts of the country.

### Toni-Ann Singh crowned Miss World 2019

**i.** **Tony-Ann Singh** of **Jamaica** was announced as the winner of the **Miss World 2019** beauty pageant held at the **ExCeL**



### London.

**ii.** She was crowned by her predecessor Miss World 2018 Vanessa Ponce from Mexico.

**iii.** **Ophelia Mezino** of **France** and **Suman Rao** of **India** were the first and second runners up of the beauty pageant respectively.

**iv.** Miss World 2019 was the **69th edition** of the contest and contestants from 120 countries competed for the title.

### Ben Stokes awarded with Sports Personality of the Year 2019 award

**i.** England cricketer **Ben Stokes** has been voted **BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2019**.



**ii.** He has become the first cricketer since Andrew Flintoff in 2005 to win the prize.

**iii.** Ben Stokes was **Man of the Match** as England won the 2019 **World Cup** for the first time with a dramatic super over victory against New Zealand at Lord's.

**iv.** He was presented with his award by the Princess Royal and former Manchester United and Scotland footballer Denis Law.

### Sahitya Akademi award 2019 released

**i.** **Sahitya Akademi** announced its annual **Sahitya Akademi Awards in 23 languages**. Seven books



of poetry, four of the novel, six of short stories, three of essays and one each of non-fiction, autobiography and biography have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2019. This time, the awards for the **Nepali language** will be announced later.

**ii.** The Award in the form of a casket containing an engraved **copper-plaque**, a shawl and an amount of **Rs. 1,00,000/-** towards cash content will be presented to the authors of these books at a special function to be held on 25 February 2020 at New Delhi during the Festival of Letters organized by Sahitya Akademi.

### Indian Archaeologist honoured in Bangladesh

i. Noted archaeologist **R. Nagaswamy** was honoured at the **Silver Jubilee International Conference of Art** in Dhaka by Bangladesh.

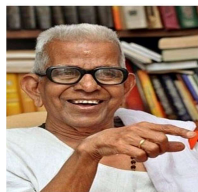


ii. He is an Indian historian, archaeologist and epigraphist.

iii. He served as the founder-director of Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department. iv. In 2018 he was awarded India's third highest civilian award Padma Bhushan.

### Akkitham Achuthan Namboodri wins 55th Jnanpith Award for the year 2019

i. On 29th November 2019, Akkitham Achuthan Namboodri, a renowned Malayalam poet has been chosen for the 55th Jnanpith



Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboodri wins 55th Jnanpith award  
Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 29 : Celebrated Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboodri, popularly known as Akkitham, has won the Jnanpith Award 2019, becoming the sixth literary personality from Kerala to achieve the honour.

Award 2019 in accordance to the Jnanpith Selection Board. He is also the 6th Malayalam Poet to receive the Jnanpith award. He was born in Kumaranellur, Kerala. The Jnanpith award is the Highest

Literary award in India, awarded to an author to acknowledge his/her excellence in Literature.

#### Key Points:

ii. Akkitham is the author of 55 books which includes 45 poetry and other genres like Drama, Reminiscence, Short stories, Essays, Children Literatures and Translations.

#### About Jnanpith Award:

i. The Jnanpith award comprises of Rs. 11 lakh cash prize and a bronze replica of Saraswati. The award is presented to literary works in any of the 22 languages included in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution

### 2019 INTERNATIONAL EMMY WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT GALA IN NEW YORK

i. Hungarian Actress **Marina Gera** & Turkish Actor **Haluk Bilginer** Win Best Performance Categories

**McMafia** (UK) Wins Drama Series Category

ii. The International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences announced the winners of the 47th International Emmy Awards tonight at a Black-Tie Gala event attended by 1,000 television professionals from around the world and hosted by comedian Ronny Chieng at the New York Hilton.

2 Special Awards and 11 Emmy statues were presented by the International Academy during the evening.

<a href="#">Arts Programming</a>	<b>Dance or Die</b>
<a href="#">Best Performance By An Actor</a>	<b>Haluk Bilginer</b> in <i>Şahsiyet [Persona]</i>
<a href="#">Best Performance By An Actress</a>	<b>Marina Gera</b> in <i>Örök Tél [Eternal Winter]</i>
<a href="#">Comedy</a>	<b>Especial de Natal Porta dos Fundos</b> [The Last Hangover]
<a href="#">Documentary</a>	<b>Bellingcat - Truth in a Post-Truth World</b>
<a href="#">Drama Series</a>	<b>McMafia</b>

### Miss South Africa crowned 2019 Miss Universe

i. Miss South Africa **Zozibini Tunzi** was crowned Miss

Universe 2019 in Atlanta, US. Ms Tunzi beat over 90 contestants from around the globe in the 68th instalment of Miss Universe.

ii. Miss Universe Puerto Rico **Madison Anderson** was





the runner-up in this contest.

iii. The Philippines' Catriona Gray, who presented Ms Tunzi the crown, was the Miss Universe winner in 2018.

## Sports

### Lewis Hamilton wins Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

i. Mercedes racer **Lewis Hamilton** has won the **Abu Dhabi Grand Prix** held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

ii. He has claimed his 84th career victory and 11th in 21 races of this year.

iii. Max Verstappen of Red Bull finished 2nd in the race while Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished 3rd in the race.

### Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik clinch gold in Senior Wrestling National C'ships

i. Star wrestlers **Vinesh Phogat** and **Sakshi Malik** registered

convincing wins in the finals to claim gold medals at the **Senior Wrestling National Championships** in Jalandhar, Punjab.

ii. While Phogat beat 20-year-old Haryana's Anju 7-3 in the 55kg category, Olympic bronze medallist Malik defeated Radhika of Haryana 4-2 in the 62kg category.



### WADA bans Russia from international sporting events for 4 years

i. The **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)**, banned **Russia** for **4 years**, from

participation in global sporting events, including the **2020 Tokyo Olympics** and the **2022 Beijing Winter Olympics**,



after accusing Moscow of falsifying data from an anti-doping laboratory.

ii. The Russian flag and national anthem have also been banned in global events.

iii. Russia's anti-doping agency can appeal the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport within 21 days. The independent McLaren report released in 2016 revealed the significant extent of state-sponsored doping in Russia, notably between 2011 and 2015.

### Do You Know-

- President of WADA: Sir Craig Reedie; Headquarters: Montreal, Canada.

- Founded: 10 November 1999.

### Rohit Sharma becomes brand ambassador of La Liga in India

i. The top tier of Spanish club football “La Liga” has announced cricketer **Rohit Sharma** as its **brand ambassador in India**.



ii. Rohit Sharma is the **first non-footballer** in the 90 year-old history of the league to have become a brand ambassador.

iii. The top tier of Spanish club football has been ramping up its fan base in India through a series of initiatives. These initiatives includes grassroot development programme like La Liga Football Schools and a digital broadcast deal with Facebook.

### Wasim Jaffer becomes first Indian to play 150 Ranji matches

i. Veteran opener **Wasim Jaffer** became the **first player in Indian cricket to feature in 150 Ranji matches**.

ii. The former India opener is now just 853 runs away from completing 20,000 runs in first-class cricket.

iii. Jaffer is followed by Madhya Pradesh batsman **Devendra Bundela (145 matches)** and **Amol Muzumdar (136 matches)**, who have played for Mumbai and Assam.

iv. Jaffer has played 253 first-class games, scoring 19,147 runs at an average of 51.19.

v. He has scored 57 hundred and 88 fifties with 314 being his highest score.

vi. He also has a double hundred to his name — the highest score of 212 against West Indies in 2006 at St John’s.

### Suniel Shetty signed as anti-doping brand ambassador NADA

i. Actor **Suniel Shetty** has been selected as the brand ambassador of **National Anti-Doping Agency NADA**.



ii. The country’s anti-doping body is hoping that his celebrity status helps its

efforts to clean up sports in the country from the menace.

iii. More than 150 athletes have failed dope tests this year though bodybuilders make up more than one-third of these offenders.

iv. This is not a welcome sign with less than eight months to go for the Tokyo Olympic Games.

v. The suspension of National Anti-Doping Laboratory by the WADA earlier this year is another issue facing the country now that dope samples collected by the National Anti-Doping Agency from the athletes will have to be tested outside India.

### 13th South Asian Games concluded in Nepal.

i. The **13th South Asian Games** concluded in Nepal. India finished on top with 312 medals comprising **174 gold, 93 silver and 45 bronze**.

ii. Host Nepal remained second and Sri Lanka got third place. During the 10 days long biggest sporting event of South Asia, over 2700 athletes from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Maldives competed for 1119 medals.

iii. Sporting events in 26 games were held at Kathmandu, Pokhara and Janakpur.

### Do You Know-

- Nepal Prime Minister: K P Sharma Oli;  
Capital: Kathmandu.
- President of Nepal: Bidhya Devi Bhandari;  
Currency of Nepal: Nepalese rupee.

### GS Lakshmi to become 1st Woman Match Referee to officiate men’s ODI match

i. Indian match referee **GS Lakshmi** is set to become the **first woman match referee to officiate a men’s ODI match**.



ii. She will oversee the third series of the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup League 2.

iii. The opening match of the competition will take place between the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America at Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

iv. Earlier in May 2019, she also became the first woman to get appointed onto the ICC International Panel of Match Referees.

v. Lakshmi has the experience of officiating in three

women's ODI matches, 16 men's T20Is and seven women's T20Is.

### S. Mandhana in ICC's ODI and T20 team of the year

i. India opener **Smriti Mandhana** was named in both the **International Cricket Council's ODI and T20 teams** of the year.



ii. She has Jhulan Goswami, Poonam Yadav and Shikha Pandey for the company in the ODI team of the year and all-rounder Deepti Sharma in the T20 side.

iii. Mandhana has played 51 ODIs and 66 T20Is for India, besides a couple of Test matches. She has combined tally of 3476 runs in T20Is and ODIs.

### Mirabai Chanu wins Gold in 6th Qatar International Cup

i. Indian weightlifter **Mirabai Chanu** won the women's **49kg** category **gold medal** to open India's account at the **6th Qatar International Cup in Doha**.

ii. She bagged gold with an effort of **194kg** in the Olympic qualifying event, with the points which will come in handy when the final rankings for Tokyo 2020 cut are done.



iii. She lifted 83kg in snatch and 111kg in clean and jerk to finish on top of the podium.

### Belgium crowned FIFA Team of the Year

i. **Belgium** has been crowned FIFA 'Team of the Year' for the second successive time after a record-breaking year for the global ladder.



ii. World champions **France** remains in the **second place** ahead of **Brazil** in **third**.

iii. Besides accumulating the biggest points haul, **Qatar** has also jumped a year-high **38 places**, followed closely by fellow climbers Algeria (up 32 ranks) and Japan (up 22 places).

### Do You Know-

- President of FIFA: Gianni Infantino; Founded: 21 May 1904.
- Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland.

### ICC continues partnership with UNICEF for Women's World T20

i. The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced that it has extended its partnership with **UNICEF** through to the **Women's T20 World Cup 2020** with the focus on empowering women and girls through cricket.



ii. The partnership and public donations continue to bring positive change to children through the programs in cricket playing nations focused on empowering women and girls in cricket.

iii. The money raised during the Women's World T20 will go to similar projects in cricket playing nations, including an innovative program to promote girls' participation in cricket in Sri Lanka and build peace in communities.

iv. The ICC and UNICEF partnership commenced in **2015**, as part of the ICC's global community outreach program "**Cricket 4 Good**"

v. During the Men's 50-over World Cup held in England and Wales earlier this summer, UNICEF raised **\$180,000** as part of '**One Day 4 Children**' and this money will go directly to fund a girls' cricket project in Afghanistan.

### Do You Know-

- ICC CEO: Manu Sawhney; ICC chairman: Shashank Manohar.
- ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

### Nadal and Barty named 2019 ITF World Champions

- i. Ashleigh Barty and Rafael Nadal were named International Tennis Federation's (ITF) World Champions in singles for 2019.
- ii. This awards will be given at the 2020 ITF world champions 2nd June, in Paris.

CATEGORY	WINNER
Men Singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain)
Women Singles	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)

#### Do You Know-

- Headquarters of ITF: London, United Kingdom.
- President of ITF: David Haggerty.

### Deepika Kumari wins gold at Asian Archery Championships, India earn Olympic quota

i. Deepika Kumar won gold and Ankita Bhakat won silver in the women's recurve event at the Asian Archery



Championship on Thursday, in the process earning India's second 2020 Olympics quota in archery.

ii. Archer Deepika Kumari won the gold medal in the recurve event of the Asian Archery Championship on Thursday (File Photo) Deepika Kumari won the gold medal in the women's recurve event at the Asian Archery Championships in Bangkok on Thursday, beating compatriot Ankita Bhakat 6-0 in an all-Indian final. Three Olympic quotas for Tokyo 2020 were on offer at this event – which went to India, Bhutan and Vietnam.

### MS Dhoni named captain of CA's ODI team of the decade

- i. Former India skipper and wicket-keeper batsman **MS Dhoni** been named **captain of Cricket Australia's (CA) ODI team of the decade** and the line-up features three Indian players.
- ii. Apart from Dhoni, **Virat Kohli** and **Rohit Sharma** have made the cut in CA's team.
- iii. CA's ODI team of the decade: Rohit Sharma, Hashim Amla, Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers, Shakib Al Hasan, Jos Buttler, MS Dhoni (c), Mitchell Starc, Trent Boult, Lasith Malinga, Rashid Khan.

### Leander Paes to retire from Tennis in 2020

- i. Indian tennis ace **Leander Paes** has announced that **2020** will be his last year as a professional tennis player.
- ii. Leander, who made his **Olympic debut in 1992**, will look for one final flourish at **Tokyo Olympics next year**.
- iii. He has won eight doubles and ten mixed doubles Grand Slam titles.

### Virat Kohli named in Wisden cricketers of the decade list

- i. Indian skipper **Virat Kohli** is one of the five players named in the **Wisden Cricketers of the Decade**. Kohli, who has scored **5,775** more international runs than anyone else in the last 10 years, has arguably been the best batsman over the last decade.
- ii. Kohli joins Australian batsman **Steve Smith**, and South Africans, **Dale Steyn**, and **AB de Villiers**. Australian all-rounder **Ellyse Perry** is the only female cricketer in the list.



### Kohli & Bumrah named in Wisden's T20I Team of the decade

- i. India skipper **Virat Kohli** and pace bowler **Jasprit Bumrah** were the only Indians in **Wisden's T20 International team of the decade**.



ii. Australia's limited overs skipper **Aaron Finch** was named **captain** of the Wisden's T20 International team of the decade.

iii. Here is the complete **Wisden's T20I team of the decade**: Aaron Finch (c), Colin Munro, Virat Kohli, Shane Watson, Glenn Maxwell, Jos Buttler, Mohammad Nabi, David Willey, Rashid Khan, Jasprit Bumrah, Lasith Malinga.

### **Tiger Woods ties record for most PGA Tour titles with 82nd win in Japan**

i. Tiger Woods added another layer of history to a remarkable year when he won his record-equaling 82nd PGA Tour title at the Zozo Championship in Chiba, Japan.

ii. The Masters champion is now tied with legendary golfer Sam Snead, who won 82 titles throughout his more than 50-year career.

### **Koneru Humpy becomes women's World Rapid champion**

i. Indian Grandmaster **Koneru Humpy** wins the **World Women's Rapid Chess Championship** held in



Moscow, **Russia**. She won the title after drawing the Armageddon game against Lei Tingjie of China. Humpy lost the first tie-break game and then won the second to reach the Armageddon game.

ii. China's Lei Tingjie won the silver and Ekaterina Atalik of Turkey settled with bronze. Humpy is only the **second Indian** to win the rapid gold in the current format **after Vishwanathan Anand** who won it in 2017.

## **Obituaries**

### **Veteran journalist Bhaskar Menon passes away**

i. **Bhaskar Menon**, Veteran Journalist in the **Press Trust of India (PTI)** passes away. He was the Regional Manager in the south division of the PTI.

ii. He has also handled many crucial news like the assassination of former Prime Minister (PM) of India, Rajiv Gandhi in the year 1991.

### **George Laurer, inventor of the barcode passes away**

i. The inventor of **Universal Product Code (UPC)** or **Barcode**, **George Joseph Laurer**, passed away.

ii. His barcode invention at **IBM (International Business Machines)**



**corporation**, transformed the retail industries as well as other industries across the world.

iii. He worked as an electrical engineer with IBM in North Carolina's research triangle park in the early 1970s.

iv. Barcode is a ubiquitous marking, composed of unique black bars and a **12-digit number**, that allows retailers to identify products by means of scanning the code.

### **Former US Federal Reserve chief Paul Volcker passes away**

i. The former **US Federal Reserve chief Paul Volcker** passed away. He was appointed as the chief of the US Federal Reserve in 1979.



ii. He was popularly **known for fighting inflation** by raising interest rates. He was a legendary figure in American finance.

### **Former Union Minister ID Swami passes away**

i. Former Union Minister **ID Swami** passed away.

ii. He served as the **Union Minister of State for Home Affairs** in **1999** in former Prime Minister Atal Bihari

Vajpayee's government.

**iii.** He was also two times Lok Sabha member from Karnal in Haryana.

### New Zealand three-times Olympic champion Peter Snell passes away

**i.** New Zealand's 3-times Olympic middle-distance champion **Peter Snell** passed away.



**ii.** He was the last male athlete to have completed the 800m and 1500m double at an Olympic Games, which he achieved in Tokyo in 1964.

**iii.** He also won 2 gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in 1962 in the 880 yards and one mile run in Perth.

### Veteran actor Shriram Lagoo passes away

**i.** Veteran actor **Shriram Lagoo** passed away. He played important role in the growth of theatre movement in Maharashtra in the post-Independence era.



**ii.** His roles in Marathi plays such as "Natsamrat" and "Himalayachi Saoli", and films such as "Pinjra" made him popular.

**iii.** In Hindi, he essayed memorable roles in films such as "Ek Din Achanak", "Gharonda" and "Lawaris", to name a few.

### Former Kerala Minister Thomas Chandy passes away

**i.** Nationalist Congress Party's Kerala State President and former Minister **Thomas Chandy** passed away.

**ii.** He represented Kuttanad constituency in Alappuzha district in the state Assembly.

**iii.** He was forced to quit as Kerala Transport Minister from the Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF government in November 2017 after facing encroachment allegations.

### England World Cup winner Martin Peters passes away

**i.** Former West Ham and Tottenham midfielder **Martin Peters**, who scored England's second goal in the 1966

**World Cup final against West Germany**, passed away.

**ii.** He joined West Ham in 1959 as a 15-year-old, made his debut in 1962 and was a key player in the side who won the 1965 Cup Winners Cup final at Wembley.

### Former Indian Navy chief Sushil Kumar dies

**i.** Former Indian Navy Chief Admiral Sushil Kumar died at a military hospital in New Delhi on Wednesday morning following a brief illness, his family sources said.

**ii.** The former navy chief passed away at the age of 79. Sushil Kumar was Navy Chief from 1998-2001.

**iii.** He authored a book named "A Prime Minister to Remember- Memories of a Military Chief" which highlighted the key defence-related decisions taken by late former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Kumar had credited Vajpayee for turning the strategic tactical loss into a massive victory.

### Vishweshwara Tirtha Swami of Pejawar Mutt passes away

**i.** The pontiff of **Pejawar Mutt, Vishweshwara Tirtha Swami** passed away in **Udupi**. He was born at Ramakujna in Dakshina Kannada district on April 27, 1931.



**ii.** He was ordained as a monk at the age of eight in 1938, as the **33rd seer** in the lineage or 'guru parampara' of the **Pejawar Mutt**.

**iii.** Vishweshwara Tirtha Swami made history by becoming the only seer among the seers of the Ashta Mutts (eight mutts) of Udupi, which propagate the Dwaita philosophy, to have performed five biennial Paryayas.

### Veteran Political cartoonist Vikas Sabnis passes away

**i.** Veteran Political cartoonist **Vikas Sabnis** has passed away recently. He recently completed 50 years of illustrious



career in 2018. He was inspired by Bal Thackeray and RK Laxman.

ii. He has also worked as a staff cartoonist at various newspapers, including the Times of India and the Mid-day. He made caricatures and political cartoons on various subjects and issues. These ranges from local to international levels.

### **Padma Shri Dhrupad vocalist Ramakant Gundecha passed away at the age of 57**

i. Dhrupad maestro and Padma Shri awardee Ramakant Gundecha, 56, passed away. He was the younger one of the Gundecha brothers.

ii. The Gundecha Brothers are Indian classical singers of the dhrupad genre of the Dagar vani. They are also the founders of the Gurukul Dhrupad Sansthan in Bhopal.

iii. From 1985 to 2019 the duo consisted of brothers Umakant Gundecha and Ramakant Gundecha.

iv. Following the death of Ramakant Gundecha in 2019, his son Anant began to perform with Umakant in the Gundecha bandhu.

v. They have been awarded Padma Shri by Government of India in 2012 and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2017.

## **Important Days with theme**

### **World AIDS Day: 01st December**

i. **World AIDS Day**, designated on **01st December** every year. World AIDS Day is an international day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of **HIV infection** and mourning those who have died of the disease.

ii. The **theme** of this year's World AIDS Day is "**Communities make the difference**".

### **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery: 2 December**

i. The **United Nations** observes **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery** on **2nd of December** every year.

ii. The day focuses on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as

trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.

iii. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) more than **40 million people** worldwide are **victims of modern slavery**.

iv. Also, more than **150 million children** are subject to **child labour**, accounting for almost **one in ten children** around the world.



### **International Day of Persons with Disabilities: 3 December**

i. **International Day of Persons with Disabilities** is being observed on the **3rd of December** every year.

ii. This day is observed to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development and to increase awareness.

iii. The theme this year is – **Promoting the Participation of Persons with Disabilities and their leadership: Taking Action on the 2030 Development Agenda**.



### Indian Navy Day: 4 December

**i. Navy Day** is being celebrated in India on **4th December**.

**ii.** The day is celebrated in honour of the maritime force's role during the war

with **Pakistan in 1971** when Indian warships attacked Karachi port and successfully hurt Pakistani operations in the western coast.

**iii.** The Day is also celebrated to highlight the role the Navy plays in securing the country's marine borders during peacetime and carrying out humanitarian missions.

**iv.** As per the recent Data, since 2008, 70 Indian naval warships have been deployed, which safely escorted over 3440 ships with over 25,000 mariners on board.



### Armed Forces Flag Day: 7 December

**i. Armed Forces Flag Day** is observed on **7th of December** every year across the country to honour the martyrs and Armed Forces personnel, who safeguard the motherland.

**ii.** The day provides an opportunity to express gratitude to the nation towards forces guarding the borders and their families.

**iii.** The fund collected on this day is used for the welfare of the serving personnel and ex-servicemen.

**iv.** The day reminds that the welfare of the soldiers and their families is the responsibility of the entire nation.



### International Civil Aviation Day: 7 December

**i.** The **United Nations General Assembly** officially recognized **7 December** as **International Civil Aviation Day** globally.

**ii.** International Civil Aviation Day was established in **1994** as part of ICAO's.

**iii.** In 1996, pursuant to an ICAO initiative and with the assistance of the Canadian Government.

**iv.** The theme of this year Civil Aviation Day is **"75 Years of Connecting the World"**.

**v.** The purpose of International Civil Aviation Day is to help generate and reinforce worldwide awareness of

the importance of international civil aviation to the social and economic development of States, and of the unique role of ICAO in helping States to cooperate and realize a truly global rapid transit network at the service of all mankind.

### International Anti-Corruption Day: 9 December

**i.** The **United Nations' (UN)**

**International Anti-Corruption Day** has been

observed annually, on **9 December**.

**ii.** The day aims to raise public awareness of corruption and what people can do to fight it.

**iii.** This year International Anti-Corruption Day theme is **"United Against Corruption"**.

INTERNATIONAL  
ANTI-CORRUPTION  
DAY  
9th DECEMBER

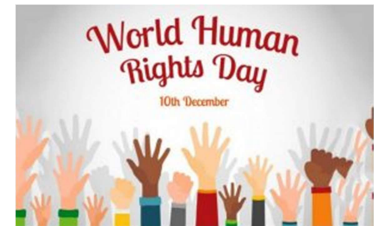


### Human Rights Day: 10 December

**i. Human Rights Day** is observed every year on **10 December**. This Day came into existence on **December 10, 1948**, when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations.

**ii.** This day is observed every year across the world, as it empowers us all. The day also acknowledges the advocates and defenders of human rights around the world.

**iii.** This year it will be the **71st anniversary** of Universal Declaration of Human Rights. With the theme **"Youth Standing Up for Human Rights"**, the aim is to celebrate the potential of youth as constructive agents of change, amplify their voices and engage a broad range of global audiences in the promotion and protection of rights.



### International Mountain Day: 11 December

**i. International Mountain Day** is held every year on **11 December** globally.

**ii.** This day was established by the UN General Assembly in 2003 to encourage sustainable development in mountains.

**iii.** The theme for 2019 IMD is **"Mountains Matter"**



for Youth”.

iv. International Mountain Day is a chance to highlight that for rural youth, living in the mountains can be hard.

v. Migration from the mountains leads to abandoned agriculture, land degradation and a loss of ancient cultural traditions. Education and training, market access, diverse employment opportunities and good public services can ensure a brighter future for young people in the mountains.

vi. This year, youth will take the lead and demand that mountains and mountain peoples become central in the national and international development agendas; receive more attention, investments and tailored research.

### International Universal Health Coverage Day: 12 December

i. International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day) is celebrated globally on **12 December**.

ii. International Universal Health Coverage Day aims to raise awareness of the need for strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage with multi-stakeholder partners.

iii. The theme for the 2019 UHC Day is “**Keep the promise**”

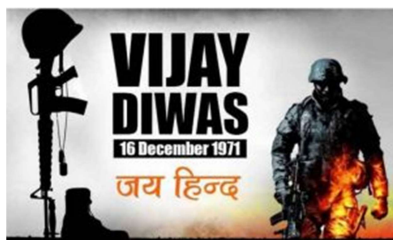
iv. In 2017 the United Nations proclaimed 12 December as International Universal Health Coverage Day by resolution 72/138.

v. Each year on 12 December, UHC advocates raise their voices to share the stories of the millions of people still waiting for health, champion what we have achieved so far, call on leaders to make bigger and smarter investments in health, and encourage diverse groups to make commitments to help move the world closer to UHC by 2030.



### India celebrates Vijay Diwas: 16 December

i. The nation celebrates **16 December** as **Vijay Diwas** to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in 1971 war.



ii. The Indo-Pakistan war of 1971 which began on December 3 lasted for 13 days and officially ended on December 16, after which Pakistan surrendered to India.

iii. It was on this day in 1971, the chief of the Pakistani forces, **General AA Khan Niazi**, along with 93 thousand troops, had surrendered unconditionally to the allied forces consisting of **Indian Army and Mukti Bahini**.

iv. The end of the war also resulted in subsequent secession of East Pakistan into Bangladesh.

### International Migrants Day: 18 December

i. The **International Migrants Day** is organized across the world on **18th**

**December** to protect the rights of migrant workers and members of their families.

ii. In Dec 2000, the UN General Assembly

proclaimed 18 Dec as International Migrants Day after considering the large and increasing number of migrants in the world.

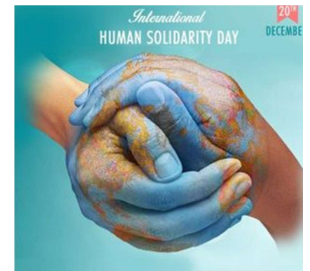
iii. The International Organization for Migration salutes migrants and the communities they join, the communities they remake through their mutual effort.

iv. We salute them and we support them, and pledge to make the future we believe is arriving for all of us. **#WeTogether**.



### International Human Solidarity Day: 20 December

i. **International Human Solidarity Day** is organized across the world on **20th December**. The General Assembly, on 22 December 2005, by resolution 60/209 identified solidarity as one of the fundamental and universal values.



**International Human Solidarity Day is:**

- A day to celebrate our unity in diversity;
- A day to remind governments to respect their commitments to international agreements;

- A day to raise public awareness of the importance of solidarity;
- A day to encourage debate on the ways to promote solidarity for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals including poverty eradication;
- A day of action to encourage new initiatives for poverty eradication.

### National Mathematics Day: 22 December

#### i.National Mathematics

Day is celebrated on **22nd**

**December** every year to mark the birth anniversary of legendary mathematician,

Srinivasa Ramanujan

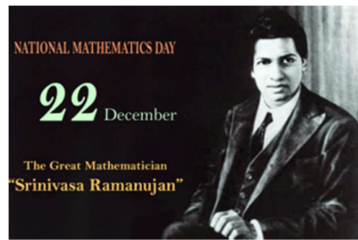
and his contributions in the development of modern mathematics.

ii.This year nation celebrates his **132nd Birth Anniversary**.

iii.Ramanujan had a wealth of ideas that have transformed and reshaped 20th-century mathematics.

iv.These ideas continue to shape mathematics of the 21st century.

v.The main objective behind the celebration of National Mathematics Day is to make people aware of the development of mathematics and its importance in the growth of humanity.



### National Farmers Day: 23 December

i.Kisan Diwas or National Farmers' Day is observed across India on **December 23**.

ii.The day honours **Chaudhary Charan Singh**, the 5th Prime Minister of India whose was born on this day.

iii.It was in the year 2001, the Government of India decided to observe December 23 every year as Kisan Diwas.

iv.Kisan Diwas is being celebrated every year to promote awareness among people about the importance of the farmers to the society and overall economic and social development of the country.



### Good Governance Day: 25 December

#### i.Good Governance

Day is observed in India annually on the **25th of December**.

ii.In this day nation celebrates the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna and former-Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.

iii.Good Governance Day was established in 2014 to honour Prime Minister Vajpayee by fostering awareness among the Indian people of accountability in government.

iv.In **2015**, Mr Vajpayee was conferred the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.



### National Consumer Day: 24th December

#### i.Every Year 24th

**December** is observed as **National Consumer Day** with a specific theme in India.

ii.The theme of this year is “**alternate consumer grievance/dispute redressal**”.

iii.The objective is to highlight the importance of the consumer movement and the need to make every consumer more aware of their rights and responsibilities.

iv.On this day the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was enacted.

v.The Act aims to provide consumers with effective safeguards against different types of exploitation, such as defective goods, deficiency in services and unfair trade practices.

#### Do You Know-

- World Consumers Rights Day: 15 March.

