



Current Affairs - Jan 2020

Month Type



- 143 Current Affairs were found in Period - **January 11 - 20, 2020** for Type - **All**

Appointments

- Govt appointed Chiefs (MD and CEO) of 3 PSU Banks -
 - L V Prabhakar - Canara Bank.
 - Atanu Kumar Das - Bank of India
 - Sanjiv Chadha - Bank of Baroda
 - Government Also appointed Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as managing director of State Bank of India for 3 years.
- Robert Abela has been appointed new prime minister of Malta (Southern European island country).
- Tsai Ing-wen won Taiwan presidential elections, winning her second term as Taiwan president.
- Arjun Munda has been elected as new President of Archery Association of India (AAI), to serve term of 4 years.
 - World Archery had appointed Kazi Rajib Uddin Ahmed Chapol as observer for elections of Archery Association of India (AAI), to be held in January 2020. Observer will submit report on his observations and based on report, World Archery will consider 'conditional lifting' of suspension on Indian Archery Federation, which was put in July 2019.
- Government appointed Nripendra Misra as chairperson of executive council of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML), with A Surya Prakash as vice-chairperson.
- India's Bipul Bihari Saha has been elected as a bureau member of the IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) for 2020-23. Saha is second Indian after *Bharat Ratna* Professor CNR Rao, to be elected (1979) for this position in largest global organization of Chemistry professionals.
- Indian Advocate Harish Salve has been appointed as Queen's Counsel (QC) for courts of England and Wales. The title is conferred upon those who have demonstrated particular skill and expertise in the legal field.
 - Mr Salve has represented India in several important matters, including Kulbhushan Jadhav case in 2019, at International Court of Justice.
- Jagat Prakash Nadda has been elected as new (11th) National President of Ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), succeeding Amit Shah.
- Mihir Shah has been appointed as chairman of 11-member committee to draft National Water Policy (NWP).
- Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin is appointed as new Prime Minister of Russia, after Dmitri Medvedev resigned as PM.
- Supreme Court appointed A M Sapre as chairman of its committee on road safety.
- World Archery appointed Kazi Rajib Uddin Ahmed Chapol as observer for elections of Archery Association of India (AAI), to be held in January 2020. Observer will submit report on his observations and based on report, World Archery will consider 'conditional lifting' of suspension on Indian Archery Federation, which was put in July 2019.
- Yuvraj Malik has been appointed as Director of National Book Trust (NBT).

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Awards

- 17th edition of Crossword Book Awards Winners -

Category	Winners
Fiction	Twinkle Khanna for 'Pyjamas Are Forgiving'.
Non Fiction	Gaur Gopal Das for 'Life's Amazing Secrets'.

Health & Fitness	Dr Jaishree Sharad for 'Skin Rules'.
Children's books	Sudha Murty for 'The Upside Down King'.
Biography	Krishna Trilok for 'Notes of a Dream: The Authorized Biography of A.R. Rahman'.
Business & Management	Anju Sharma for 'Corporate Monk'.

2. ▶ 26th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards (US) Winners -

Category	Award Winner
Male Actor in a Television Movie or Miniseries	Sam Rockwell, (Fosse/Verdon)
Female Actor in a Television Movie or Miniseries	Michelle Williams, (Fosse/Verdon)
Male Actor in a Drama Series	Peter Dinklage (Game of Thrones)
Female Actor in a Drama Series	Jennifer Aniston (The Morning Show)
Male Actor in a Comedy Series	Tony Shalhoub (The Marvelous Mrs Maisel)
Female Actor in a Comedy Series	Phoebe Waller-Bridg (Fleabag)
Male Actor in a Leading Role	Joaquin Phoenix (Joker)
Female Actor in a Leading Role	Renee Zellweger (Judy)
Male Actor in a Supporting Role	Brad Pitt (Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood)
Female Actor in a Supporting Role	Laura Dern (Marriage Story)

3. ▶ Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has been conferred with Australia's highest civilian honour, the Order of Australia honour, for her significant service to advancing Australia's bilateral relationship with India.
4. ▶ Filmmaker Martin Scorsese has been honored by 31st Palm Springs International Film Festival as recipient of Sonny Bono Visionary Award for film 'The Irishman', in California (US).
5. ▶ Indian singer Suman Kalyanpur has been chosen for 2017 National Lata Mangeshkar Award of state govt. of Madhya Pradesh, and composer Kuldeep Singh chosen for same award for 2018. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh.
6. ▶ Kerala Govt announced sports awards 2020 -
 1. Sprinter Muhammad Anas won GV Raja award (Male) for athletics. In female category, PC Thulasi adjudged winner.
 2. TP Ouseph, athletics coach will be conferred with Olympian Suresh Babu lifetime achievement award.
 3. Award for best sports trainer won by football coach Satheevan Balan.
7. ▶ Noted Sindhi writer Vasdev Mohi will be conferred with 29th Saraswati Samman, for his short stories collection - *Chequebook*. Saraswati Samman carries cash award of 15 lakh rupees. Mr Mohi has authored 25 books of poetry, stories and translations, and also has received Sahitya Akademi Award.
8. ▶ Tech Firm Merck announced winners of first Merck Young Scientist Award, recognizing contributions of young Indian scientists in innovative research. Winners -
 1. Debojyoti Chakraborty (Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology Delhi)
 2. Dipyaman Ganguly (CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology Kolkata)
 3. Siddhesh S Kamat (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Pune)
 4. Mahendran K .R (Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology Thiruvananthapuram)
 5. Sakya S. Sen (CSIR - National Chemical Laboratory Pune)
 6. Basker Sundararaju (Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur)
 7. About -
 1. Winners receive INR 200000 & Travel Award of INR 150000 each and runners receive INR 100000.
 2. Merck Young Scientist Award is presented to a Researcher or Scientist with less than 10 years of research experience (post PhD).

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Books

1. ▶ Book comprising selected writings by former finance minister Arun Jaitley, namely "New India:Selected Writings 2014-19" has been released.
2. ▶ Book titled *PAX SINICA:Implications for the Indian Dawn*, authored by Samir Saran and Akhil Deo has been released. It presents a comprehensive view of how China will implicate the world order in 21st century.

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Committees

1. ▶ Govt formed a 11-member panel including mines secretaries from various states, to examine issues pertaining to the revision of rates of royalty for minerals. It will be headed by Mines Additional Secretary (K. Rajeswara Rao currently).

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Days

1. ▶ Jan 15 is observed as Indian Army Day.
 1. On January 15 in 1949, first General of Indian Army General K M Cariappa took charge from last British General Bucher.
 2. General Cariappa retired on January 14, 1953. His retirement day is being celebrated as Armed Forces Veterans Day every year since 2017.
 3. Also, Tania Sher Gill became first woman Army Officer to lead the parade.
2. ▶ January 12 is observed as National youth Day in india, to commemorate birth anniversary of Legendary Philosopher Swami Vivekananda.
 1. Govt will also organize National Youth Festival between January 12 - 16, 2020 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, being organized since 1995.
 2. National Youth day is being celebrated since 1985.
 3. Indian Embassy in Kathmandu(Nepal) launched 4 books including Nepali translation of Swami Vivekananda's 'Karma Yoga' (Publisher -Advaita Ashrama).
3. ▶ National Immunization Day observed across India as part of Pulse Polio Programme 2020, with over 17 crore children under 5 years age were administered polio drops.
 1. India has eradicated polio completely in 2012. In order to sustain the eradication, govt organizes Pulse Polio immunization campaigns on the standards set by World Health Organization (WHO).
 2. Next round of National Immunization Day is to be held in March 10.
 3. According to WHO, NID has to be conducted twice a year at a gap of 2 to 4 weeks.

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Defence

1. ▶ 19th edition of India - Japan Annual Joint Coast guard Exercise 'Sahyog-Kaijin' began in Chennai (Tamil Nadu).
2. ▶ 2 Indian Coast Guard Ships (ICGS) namely Annie Besant and Amrit Kaur have been commissioned into service, as second and third in series of five Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs).
3. ▶ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off 51st unit of K-9 Vraj-T cannon, at Hazira (Surat). Ministry of Defence had signed an agreement of Rs 4500 crore with L&T company in 2017 to supply 100 units of K9 Vajra-T 155mm/52 caliber guns to Indian Army.
4. ▶ India conducted successful underwater firing of K4 nuclear capable missile, with 3,500 km range. It is meant for Arihant-class submarines, the first indigenously manufactured nuclear submarine.
 1. India operates Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile K-15, with range 750 km.
 2. Other under water missile being developed by India is BO-5, with range 700-km.
 3. K-series missiles are named after former president APJ Abdul Kalam. They are much faster than Agni missiles.
 4. K 15 Missiles are also called Sagarika missiles, as a replica to land-based Shaurya missiles.
5. ▶ Indian Air Force inducted its first squadron of Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft which are capable of carrying BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, called 222 '*Tigersharks' fighter squadron*, at thanjavur airbase. New squadron is armed with 2.5-ton air-launched BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile which is capable of striking targets at a distance of over 300 KM with pinpoint precision.
6. ▶ Indian Army conducted its biggest airborne exercise called the *Winged Raider*, comprising over 500 special forces troops in North-Eastern theatre.
7. ▶ Russia announced that production of S-400 air defence missile system for India has begun, which are to be delivered by 2025. Also, foreign Ministerial meet of Russia, India and China will be held in March 2020. S500 is a surface to missile defence system with a range of 600 km.

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Economy

1. ▶ As per National Statistical Office under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Retail inflation rose to a 5-year high of 7.35% in December 2019. Earlier, in July 2014, it was 7.39 %.

1. Retail inflation has crossed the upper limit set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which is 2-6%.
2. Retail inflation is increase in the price of goods sold at retail market, measured by consumer price index (CPI).
3. ▶ Fintech Firm PayU acquired majority equity stake in digital credit platform PaySense, for an equity value of \$185 million.
3. ▶ Flipkart former CEO Sachin Bansal acquired DHFL General Insurance, for Rs 100 crores, from Wadhawan Group Capital (WGC). WGC is parent of crisis-hit Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL), which has been recently admitted for bankruptcy.
4. ▶ Govt raised Indian Overseas Bank's authorised capital from 15000 crores to 25000 crores.
5. ▶ Govt will not allow imports without HSN (*Harmonized System of Nomenclature*) code (in *Others* category), stating that there must be zero tolerance for substandard products and services from industry and consumers.
6. ▶ Gurgaon-based Food delivery aggregator *Zomato* acquired Uber Eats business in India, in an all-stock deal. It provides Uber with 9.99% ownership in Zomato after acquisition. Deal is estimated to be pegged at \$300-350 million.
7. ▶ ICICI bank launched India's largest API (application programming interfaces) Banking portal called 'ICICI Bank API Banking portal'(<https://developer.icicibank.com/>), which consists of 250 APIs & allows bank's partner companies to sign up on it and create applications.
8. ▶ India signed **88 million USD** Loan agreement with World Bank, to modernize Assam's Ferry transport service on Brahmaputra river. Aim of Assam Inland Water Transport Project (AIWTP) is to help Assam improve its ferry infrastructure and strengthen institutions operating inland water transport.
9. ▶ Indian Railways signed MoU with Railways PSU RailTel, to implement Phase II of e-office programme. Railways will also provide content on demand services in premium, suburban, express and mail trains. E-Office system is an integrated file management system that will help employees manage data, content electronically.
10. ▶ Insurance regulator IRDAI imposed a fine of Rs 1 crore on Cholamandalam MS General Insurance, for violating health insurance regulations related to payment of commission.
11. ▶ National Payments Corporation of India launched blockchain technology based "Vajra Platform" to make payments fast & secure. Vajra is based on Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT), designed to offer automatic clearing and settlement of payments on NPCI products such as unified payments interface (UPI) and Rupay card. Vajra can be accessed by payment companies for providing secured transactions on their platforms / applications.
12. ▶ RBI curbed Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank, a private bank in Bengaluru (Karnataka) from doing business, after finding alleged irregularities in transactions. Bank' customers can withdraw cash up to 35000 only, till further notice.
13. ▶ RBI released a report *National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI): 2019-2024*, formulated by RBI under aegis of Financial Inclusion Advisory Committee (FIAC). As per report, 6 pillars as part of strategic objectives to achieve financial inclusion -
 1. Universal Access to Financial Services
 2. Providing basic bouquet of financial services
 3. Access to livelihood and Skill Development
 4. Financial Literacy and Education
 5. Customer Protection and Grievance Redressal
 6. Effective Co-ordination
14. ▶ RBI revised Know Your Customer (KYC) norms for banks and other lending institutions, allowing banks / lending institutions to use "Video based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP). V-CIP is a consent based alternate method of establishing the customer's identity and for customer onboarding from remote areas while leveraging the digital technology.
15. ▶ South-Central Railways and SBI signed MoU to implement door step banking in 585 railway stations. It will enable direct pick up of cash from all stations included in MoU.
16. ▶ Stock market regulator SEBI extended deadline for separation of posts of Chairman and MD (Managing Director) or chief executive officer (CEO) for 500 listed companies by 2 years. Now this rule has to be followed by April 1, 2022. It's aim is to separate board and management of top companies.
 1. Rules to separate post of Chairman-MD are part of recommendations of Uday Kotak (MD of Kotak Mahindra Bank) Committee appointed by SEBI on Corporate Governance.
17. ▶ To promote Ease of Doing Business, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) launched paperless licensing process through Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) for road tankers for transportation of petroleum, under Petroleum Rules 2002.
 1. It will provide simpler mechanism, ease of living and business to the petroleum road tanker owners. It will include filing applications online, online payment of fees. Applicants will be intimated via SMS and email.

18. ▶ To promote digital payments, RBI permitted processing of e-mandate for recurring payments through UPI (Unified Payments Interface).
 1. This will allow UPI users to bypass additional factor authentication (AFA), a security measure put in place for card payments that requires OTP – one-time password verification) during registration and 1st transaction.
 2. This was earlier available for card / wallet payments. The limit on such recurring transactions has been set at Rs 2000.
19. ▶ US-based consumer credit reporting firm Equifax will buy stake held by State Bank of India and its other local joint venture partners in Equifax Credit Information Services Pvt. Ltd.
 1. SBI will sell its 7.41% stake, Bank of Baroda and Sundaram Finance 10% each, Bank of India 3.5%, Union Bank of India 4.17% and Kotak Mahindra 5.56%.

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International

1. ▶ *University College London's Energy Institute* stated that to achieve UN target of reducing carbon emissions from shipping industry by 50% by 2050, world has to spend 1 trillion USD (50 to 70 billion USD annually).
 1. Emissions from shipping account to 2.2% of world CO₂ emissions, with 90% of world trade happening at sea.
 2. ▶ China and Myanmar signed 33 new deals under BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) to implement China-Myanmar Economic Corridor. Also, a concession agreement was signed to implement deep seaport project called Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone.
 1. Controversial Myitsone dam project that is backed by China was not discussed, which allows China to easy access to Indian Ocean, as this route bypasses Strait of Malacca through which China imports most of its oil requirements.
 2. Strait of Malacca connects Andaman Sea and South China Sea. This route is on the international boundary and is far from India's territories as compared to Myanmar route.
 3. ▶ Dispute settlement body of World Trade Organisation's (WTO) has set up a panel to examine complaints of United States(US) against India for hiking customs duties of 28 American goods in July 2019.
 1. US alleged India's move of increasing custom duties for being inconsistent with 2 global trade norms of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) 1994 agreement.
 4. ▶ India ranked 5th in annual Carbon Disclosure Project 2019 report published by *Global Reporting Initiative*, aimed at measuring carbon reduction activities undertaken by firms operating across globe.
 1. Report surveys corporate commitments to science-based targets (SBT) and evaluates climate change risk that they are exposed to.
 2. India India is first developing economy with maximum number of companies committing to science-based targets. India had 38 companies committing to science-based targets, up from 25 companies committing to SBTs in 2018.
 3. Top 5 - US (1), Japan (2), United Kindom (3), France (5), India (5).
 5. ▶ India's Statue of Unity has been included in 8 wonders of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization).
 1. It is World's tallest statue, dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was built at Kevadiya in Narmada district of Gujarat. Its height is 182 meters (597 ft), built at cost of Rs 3000 crores. It was opened on 31 October 2018 (Birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel).
 2. Eight Wonders of SCO include -
 1. Statue of Unity in India
 2. Daming Palace in China
 3. Navruz Palace in Tajikistan
 4. Mughals Heritage in Pakistan
 5. Tamgaly Gorge in Kazakhstan
 6. Po-i-Kalan Complex in Uzbekistan
 7. The Golden Ring of Russia
 8. Lahore, the Mughals heritage in Pakistan
 3. Also, India will hold SCO Meet For the first time, later in 20220. Heads of 8 SCO countries (India, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan) will attend the meeting. India will also invite Pakistan PM Imran Khan for the meet.
 6. ▶ International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook reduced growth forecasts for India to 4.8 % for 2019-21, down from 5.8 %.
1. Also, IMF has projected global growth to rise from 2.9 % in 2019 to 3.3 % in 2020 and 3.4 % in 2021.

2. Indian economy growth is expected to rise to 5.8 percent in 2020-21 and 6.5 percent in 2021-22.
7. ▶ Iran accepted that it had 'accidentally' and 'unintentionally' shot down a Ukrainian Boeing 737-800 aircraft, killing all onboard. Iran called it a 'human-error' because of aircraft's unexpected and sharp turn towards a sensitive area and a military base.
8. ▶ Tech Firm Microsoft announced to become carbon negative by 2030. It also aims that by 2050, it will remove from environment all the carbon the company has emitted either directly or by electrical consumption since it was founded in 1975.
9. ▶ UK Parliament approved Brexit deal, paving way for Britain's smooth exit from 28-member European Union on January 31, 2020. The deal was stuck in British Parliament for over a year.
 1. Brexit bill was approved by British MPs after PM Boris Johnson's Conservatives won majority in elections. Bill was rejected multiple times previously despite several efforts from Johnson and former British PM Theresa May.
10. ▶ US signed first phase of a trade deal with China, trying to conclude over an year of tough negotiations and suspension of talks between two countries. China pledged to purchase at least an additional \$200 billion worth of U.S. farm products and other goods and services over two years.
11. ▶ World Economic Forum released its Global Risks Report 2020, identifying global risks. Report has listed 5 top risks in terms of Likelihood and in terms of Impact.
 1. Risks in terms of likelihood includes extreme weather, climate action failure, natural disasters, biodiversity losses and human-made environmental disasters.
 2. For the first time, all 5 risks of likelihood are climate-related.
 3. Global Risks in terms of impacts include climate action failure, weapons of mass destruction, biodiversity losses, extreme weather and water crisis.
12. ▶ World Gold Council (WGC) report *World Gold Outlook 2020* -
 1. It stated that gold trade increased by 18.4% in 2019, as compared to 2010.
 2. RBI holds 625.2 tonnes of gold, 6.6% of country's foreign exchange. India ranks sixth in the world among other central banks.
 3. Other 5 countries that have bought more gold than India include China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Poland.
 4. In 2019, the largest gold sellers were Uzbekistan and Venezuela, selling 16.6 tonnes and 30.3 tonnes respectively.
13. ▶ World Health Organization releases list of Global Health Challenges of forthcoming year, including 13 potential threats.
 1. Foremost threat is Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) and climate crisis. These 2 threats were on the top in 2019 as well.
 2. New entrant to nter top 13 potential threats is *Lack of Access*. The report says that around a third of world population lack access to vaccines, diagnostic tools, medicines and other essential health products.

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Meetings

1. ▶ 27th edition of South Asian Trade and Travel Exchange Expo (SATTE) 2020 held in New Delhi.
2. ▶ International Conclave on "Globalizing Indian Thought" held at IIM Kozhikode (Kerala).
3. ▶ Raisina Dialogue Held in New Delhi, with ministerial delegations from 13 nations participating.
 1. Since its inception in 2016, Raisina Dialogue has emerged as India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, hosted by Observer Research Foundation.
 2. During the meet, Russia questioned idea of "Indo-Pacific", saying that it is divisive and isolates China.
 3. India-Finland signed a Defence MoU.
4. ▶ World Future Energy Summit Held at Abu Dhabi (UAE), with theme *Rethinking Global Consumption, Production and Investment*. 5 main pillars os summit are energy, water, solar, waste and smart cities. It is being conducted at Abu Dhabi since 2011.


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National

1. ▶ 2020 Malaysia Masters Badminton -
 1. Men's Singles - Kento Momota (Japan)
 2. Women's Singles - Chen Yufei (China)
 3. Men's Doubles - South Korea's Kim Gi-jung AND Lee Yong-dae
 4. Women's Doubles - China's Li Wenmei AND Zheng Yu

5. Mixed Doubles - China's Zheng Siwei AND Huang Yaqiong
2. ▶ 28th edition of New Delhi World Book Fair 2020 held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
 1. Fair is organized jointly by National Book Trust and India Trade Promotion Organization.
 2. 2020 theme is *Gandhi, the Writers' Writer*.
3. ▶ 5th edition of Science Film Festival of India, SCI-FFI 2020, held in Goa.
4. ▶ 9th International Children's Film Festival began in Kolkata (WB), with About 250 films from 45 countries to be screened in week-long festival.
5. ▶ A Concession Agreement signed completing 6.5 km long Z-Morh tunnel in UT of J&K, which includes construction and maintenance of tunnel with approaches on NH-1 at Srinagar-Sonmarg-Gumri Road from 61 km to 89.30 km on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) Annuity basis.
 1. The 2-lane bi-directional tunnel with parallel escape tunnel will be completed in 3.5 years at a cost of Rs 2378 Crores.
 2. Tunnel is capable of allowing 1000 vehicles an hour at a speed of 80 km per hour.
6. ▶ Airports Authority of India (AAI) announced that 4 airports in India have received international recognition for reducing carbon emission. These are Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport Kolkata, Biju Patnaik International Airport Bhubaneswar, Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport Varanasi AND Trivandrum International Airport.
 1. The airports had adopted grading system in 2018 and successfully implemented the carbon emission plan.
7. ▶ Anand Prakash Maheshwari has been appointed as new director general of CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force). CRPF is world's largest paramilitary force.
8. ▶ Andhra Pradesh cabinet approved proposal to have 3 capitals for Andhra Pradesh, amid protests by farmers. Government proposed to retain Amaravati as legislative capital, while making Visakhapatnam home for executive and Kurnool the judicial capital.
9. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh Assembly adopted a new logo, which reflects distinct identity and culture of state. Logo consists of National Emblem to signify federal system of India and flower foxtail orchid (*Rhynchostylis retusa*) which represents the state. Pictorial Representation -



1. 
10. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh became first State to initiate International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s 'red listing' at the state level, after it inked MoU with IUCN. State will collaborate with IUCN to prepare IUCN's Red List Assessment for all orchids in State.
11. ▶ CSIR collaborated with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to produce an indigenous engine for the Saras light passenger aircraft being developed.
12. ▶ Central Government, Bru-Reang representatives, Government of Tripura and Mizoram signed an agreement to end refugee crisis of Bru-Reang community. Under it, 34000 Bru Refugees are to be settled in Tripura, with rehabilitation budget of 600 crores.
 1. Displaced families are to be provided with land of 40 by 30 square feet, along with aid of Rs 1.5 lakhs to build their houses. Centre will also provide fixed deposit of 4 lakhs and 5000 cash aid per month and free ration for 2 years.
 2. Due to ethnic tension in 1997, around 5000 families of 30000 Bru-Reang tribes were forced out of Mizoram to seek shelter in Tripura. In 2010, Govt began efforts to rehabilitate them in Tripura.
13. ▶ Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) issued new guidelines for establishing petrol pumps, because of their impact on environment.
 1. Any petrol pump can't be established in 50 meters radius of a school, hospital or residential area.
 2. Oil companies must install Vapor Recovery System (VRS) at stations where about 300-kilo liters of oil is sold every month.
 3. State Pollution Regulatory Board will impose an environmental penalty equal to the price of VRS in case of non-installation of VRS.
14. ▶ Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda launched APNA UREA - Sona Ugle brand of Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited (HURL).
 1. HURL is Joint Venture Company promoted by Coal India, NTPC and Indian Oil Corporation.

2. Earlier in 2016, Government had approved revival of 3 sick Urea plants located at Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni, which have been undertaken by HURL. Other 2 plants at Ramagundam and Talcher will also commence production soon. After commissioning of these 5 units, production of Urea will increase by over 63 Lakh Metric Tonne per annum.
15. ▶ Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel has launched an employment-oriented mobile app, 'Rojgar Sangi' developed by Chhattisgarh State Skill Development Authority (CSSDA). It will provide employment to trained youths under their skill development programme.
16. ▶ China operationalised telescope with a diameter of 500 Meters, called *Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical radio Telescope (FAST)*. It is a single-dish telescope, located in southwest China's Guiyang city. It has receiving area of around 30 football fields. It is expected to pave way for major discoveries in due course.
 1. Dubbed as "China Sky Eye", FAST is world's largest telescope and capable of receiving maximum of 38 gigabytes of information per second.
 2. It is world's largest filled-aperture radio telescope, and second-largest single-dish aperture after sparsely-filled RATAN-600 (Russia).
17. ▶ Citizenship Amendment Act came into effect as central government issued a notification for revised citizenship act on January 10, 2020.
 1. Under to this, minorities of Hindu, Jain, Parsi, Sikh, Christian, and Buddhist communities who came to India from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan till December 31, 2014, will not be considered as illegal migrants. Instead, they will be given Indian citizenship.
 2. The new citizenship act was passed in Parliament in Winter session in December 2019.
 3. CAA will not apply to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura, as these areas are included in the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
 4. This law will also not be applicable in the areas of Inner Line Permit (ILP) notified under Bengal Eastern Border Regulation, 1873.
ILP is applicable in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Mizoram.
18. ▶ Delhi Government released guarantee card that consisted of 10 guarantees for residents of Delhi.
 1. Card guarantees uninterrupted power supply throughout year, also including free electricity for residents up to 200 units.
 2. Government also assured to replace overhead electrical wires with underground cables.
 3. It also assures supply of clean drinking water to every household by 2025.
 4. It also promises to build pucca houses under "Jahan Jhuggi Wahin Makan" scheme for those living in slums.
19. ▶ Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal granted Delhi Police Commissioner the power to detain under National Security Act 1980, for next three months. Delhi Police will get emergency detention power between January 19 till April 18, 2020.
 1. National Security Act allows preventive detention of an individual, who are seen as threat to national security. The detained person is not charged by Police.
 2. National Security Act was promulgated on September 23, 1980, to provide preventive detention of a person if authorities are convinced that he / she hampers law and order.
 3. Under NSA, a person can be detained for up to 12 months without a charge.
20. ▶ Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) asked people possessing drones to register their gadgets by January 31, 2020.
 1. Ministry of Civil Aviation has issued this notice soon after a missile attack place through a drone on Iran.
 2. A Drone Acknowledgement Number (DAN) will be issued when registration will be completed.
21. ▶ Dubai-based Indian girl Sucheta Satish, has won in 'Global Child Prodigy Awards 2020', in singing category. She is known to be able to sing in 120 languages. Global Child Prodigy Award is a platform to celebrate children's talent and power in different categories.
 1. 10 year old Ishwar Sharma from UK has also been honoured with Global Child Prodigy Award 2020, for his achievements in spiritual discipline yoga. Sharma is originally from Mysore has participated in over 100 yoga events worldwide.
22. ▶ Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), which considers diversion of forest land for non-forest uses, has approved Green Credit Scheme that would allow forests to be traded as a commodity.
 1. It allows agencies like private companies, village forest communities etc to identify lands for forest cultivation and ensures plantations are grown.
 2. After 3 years, these identified lands would be considered as compensatory forest land after meeting forest department's criteria. Currently, industry should find appropriate non forest land equal to that which would be razed for industrial purposes.

3. Previously in 2015, a 'Green Credit Scheme' for degraded forest land with public-private participation was recommended. But it wasn't approved by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

23. ► General Conferences (Jan 11 - 20, 2020) -

1. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) added 135 laboratories to existing 51 recognized laboratories, with maximum number of laboratories being increased in Maharashtra (35).
2. ELECRAMA 2020 Held at India Expo Mart in Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh), as flagship showcase of Indian electrical industry.
3. 2nd edition of 'NIC TechConclave 2020' held at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi, with theme *Technologies for NextGen Governance*.
4. 1st Session of India-Norway Dialogue on Trade & Investment (DTI) held in New Delhi.
5. After successful run of Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express, 2nd premium Tejas train flagged off between Ahmedabad and Mumbai. To be operated by IRCTC, it shall be equipped with modern facilities on board for ensuring a high level of comfort to passengers.
6. 7th annual meeting of *Indo-German Working Group on Quality Infrastructure* held in New Delhi.
7. NITI Aayog 's Atal Innovation Mission and UN Development Programme (UNDP) hosted *Youth Co:Lab -national innovation challenge* in Delhi. It aims at fostering technology, promoting youth leadership and social entrepreneurship in India.
 1. Under 1st phase of *Youth Co: Lab's national innovation challenge*, series of innovation challenges were held in four cities – Bengaluru, Mumbai, Indore and Varanasi.
 2. Following this, UNDP and Atal Innovation Mission now hosted *Youth Co: Lab National Innovation Challenge* in New Delhi.
8. Ministry of Earth Science launched Seismic Hazard Microzonation project in major cities, to reduce hazards of seismic activities by putting in adequate measures.
 1. Seismic Hazard Microzonation is dividing earth quake prone areas based on certain factors.
 2. So far, mapping is done in State of Sikkim and other 8 cities - Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Guwahati, Jabalpur, Dehra Dun, Ahmedabad and Gandhidham.
9. Govt organised 1st-ever Food Processing Summit in UT of Ladakh.
10. 7th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association India Region held in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh).
11. 6th Island Development Agency meeting Held in New Delhi, focused on "Green Development in Islands to reach new heights".
 1. Island Development Agency (IDA) taken up scientifically assessed sustainable development goals in order to improve growth of Islands, as first time such an initiative is being implemented.
 2. Also, city of Port Blair and other 7 islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands are to be digitally connected through submarine optical fibre cable by June 2020.
 3. Total 26 islands (16 from Andaman & Nicobar Islands and 10 from Lakshadweep islands) are identified for promoting tourism.
12. 31st Road Safety Week Observed between 11th-17th Jan, 2020.
13. Month long special exhibition titled *Indian Heritage in Digital Space*, launched in New Delhi.
14. Chariot festival of Suchindram Thanumalayan Temple held in Tamilnadu.
15. Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani has launched 7th Economic Census process in state.
 1. 7th Economic Census (EC), conducted by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) commenced from Tripura. It is held after a gap of 5 years. As per previous Economic Census conducted in 2013, there were 58.5 million establishments employing around 131 million workers.
 2. Implementing Agency is Common Services Centers (CSC) e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY).
 3. Results at national level will be available by March 2020.
16. Uttar Pradesh's Bahadurpur and Kheri Viran are to become India's first 'Model Sports Villages' as part of IMT Ghaziabad's *Adarsh Khel Gram' program*, in association with and NGO 'Sports: A Way of Life'.
17. India's first case of Avian influenza / Bird flu caused by a rare variety of H9N2 virus reported in a 17-month-old boy of Maharashtra. The viruses are found in wild birds and are endemic in poultry in some countries.

18. First phase of *Bishwa Ijtema* commenced in Dhaka (Bangladesh), as 2nd largest congregation of Muslim community after Hajj.
19. In Gujarat, first edition of Krishi Manthan- largest Food, Agri-business and Rural Development Summit of Asia organized by Indian Institute of Management (Ahmedabad).
20. 4 districts - Dibrugarh (Assam), Sirmaur (Himachal Pradesh), Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Puri (Odisha) awarded for innovations and initiatives in plastic waste management, during 2020 Swachhata Darpan plastic management awards conferred by actor Aamir Khan in New Delhi.
24. ▶ Government appointed **Michael Debabrata Patra** as Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 1. He is 4th RBI deputy governor, other 3 being NS Vishwanathan, BP Kanungo and MK Jain.
 2. Shaktikanta Das is Governor of RBI.
25. ▶ Government has set a new deadline for completion of world's highest railway bridge - Chenab bridge. It is now to be completed by December 2021. Konkan railway is the implementing agency of this project.
 1. Chenab bridge will be 35m taller than Eiffel Tower in Paris (France), and will surpass Beipan river Shuibai railway bridge (275 m) in China, being 359 meters above chenab river bed.
 2. It is designed to withstand the wind's speeds of up to 260km per hour. It will be 1.315-km-long and will connect Bakkal (katra) and Kauri (Srinagar) in Kashmir.
 3. Bridge forms a crucial link in 111-km stretch between Katra and Banihal, as part of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project.
26. ▶ Govt accepted recommendations of a special investigation team (SIT), headed by retired Delhi HC judge Justice S N Dhingra which has probed 186 cases of 1984 anti-Sikh riots, and Govt will take appropriate action as per the laws.
27. ▶ Govt announced that jewellers shall be allowed to sell hallmarked gold artifacts that are made of 14, 18 and 22 carat gold alone. Also, it is mandatory for all jewellers to get compulsory hallmark, which is currently voluntary. Mandatory ruling is to be implemented from January 15, 2021. Violations of hall marking will result in one-year imprisonment and fine.
28. ▶ Govt launched *Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD)* developed by Indian Institute of Technology Madras, that will help in proper monitoring and accurate analysis of road accidents. Initially, it is being implemented in 6 states - Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu (TN) and Uttar Pradesh (UP).
29. ▶ Harvest festival of Lohri celebrated on January 13 in North India. Lohri marks Sun beginning its journey to Northern Hemisphere and days start to get longer.
30. ▶ ICC Awards 2019 Winners -
 1. Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy - Ben Stokes (Eng)
 2. ODI Cricketer of the Year – Rohit Sharma
 3. Test Cricketer of the Year- Pat Cummins (Aus)
 4. Spirit of Cricket Award- Virat Kohli. Virat Kohli also named captain of both ICC Test and ODI teams of 2019.
 5. Associate Cricketer of the Year- Kyle Coetzer (Scotland)
 6. ICC Men's Emerging Cricketer- Marnus Labuschagne (Aus)
 7. T20I Performance of the Year- Deepak Chahar
31. ▶ IT Firm Infosys signed 5 years deal with France based Logistics Firm GEFICO to digitally transform its worldwide operations. It will help GEFICO to transform GEFICO's next-generation business application management services.
32. ▶ IT Firm NIIT is selected as one of EdTech companies for NEAT initiative. NIIT will work with AICTE to implement vision of Ministry of HRD on NEAT. MHRD will institute 5 awards of Rs 50000 for faculties and 10 awards of Rs 10000 for students.
 1. NEAT (National Educational Alliance for Technology) was launched to customize learning process using Artificial Intelligence.
33. ▶ Income-Tax Department launched a 24x7 control room to monitor black money and illegal inducements in poll-bound Delhi. The facility will also host a toll-free number- 1800117574 - where people can inform the department about any suspicious activity.
34. ▶ India renamed its National TB Control Programme to National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme. Also, WHO (World Health Organization) recently endorsed on technology developed by Indian scientists to detect disease, called *TrueNat MTB*. India plans to eliminate TB by 2025, which is 5 years ahead of goal of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals target.
35. ▶ Indian Institute of Management Indore partnered with video-sharing application TikTok to produce short video modules on management courses for students and trained professionals.
 1. IIM Indore also tied up with Uttar Pradesh Police, under which it will provide effective communication and crowd management training to UP Police personnel.

36. ▶ IndianOil and Oil India Ltd (OIL) signed agreement to collaborate on a CO₂-assisted Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) project in Assam. Plan is to transfer CO₂ captured from flue-gas stacks of Hydrogen Generation Unit & Gas Turbine power plant at Digboi Refinery to OIL's Nahorkatiya & Dikom oil fields in Assam.
37. ▶ Jan 14 is observed as Armed Forces Veterans Day, celebrated since 2017. It was initially called Armistice Day.
38. ▶ Kerala government invoked **Article 131** to file a petition against Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in Supreme Court, becoming first state to move to Supreme court for challenging CAA.
 1. Citizenship (Amendment) Act provides Indian citizenship to religious minorities belonging to six non-Muslim religions, who have faced religious persecution in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.
 2. Kerala became first state to challenge CAA, stating that it violates Article 14, 21 and 25 of constitution, which guarantees basic principles such as equality before law, protection of life and personal liberty and freedom of conscience and free profession, practice, and propagation of religion.
 3. Article 131 vests SC with original jurisdiction over any dispute arising between states or between centre and state. It gives Supreme Court the power to take up such cases straight instead of going through a lower court or reviewing a lower court's judgement.
 4. Earlier, Article 131 was invoked by state of Madhya Pradesh in 2011 challenging certain aspects of its reorganization following bifurcation and formation of Chhattisgarh.
39. ▶ Minister for Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, **Ravi Shankar Prasad** inaugurated Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Blockchain Technology in Bengaluru (Karnataka), set up by National Informatics Centre (NIC).
 1. It will facilitate Government Departments in building proof of concepts for use of Blockchain technology in different dimensions of governance.
40. ▶ Minister for Women and Child Development and Textiles, Smriti Irani launched Yashaswini Scheme for Women entrepreneurship in Goa. Under this, women self-help groups will be given interest free loans of upto Rs Five lakh for business.
 1. Other 2 welfare schemes are *Swasthya Sahayak Project* and *breast cancer screening initiative*.
41. ▶ Ministry of Defence announced new fuel upgradation for Indian Navy with revised technical specifications, launching High Flash High Speed Diesel (HFHSD) - IN 512, developed by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC). Aim of new fuel introduction is to reduce carbon footprint.
 1. This will help in reducing carbon footprint, equipment reliability, increased performance and will help Navy achieve its Mission based deployment.
42. ▶ Ministry of Earth Science launched Seismic Hazard Microzonation project in major cities of India, aiming at reducing hazards of seismic activities by putting in adequate measures. It is process of dividing earth quake prone areas based on certain factors. Based on division, mitigation measures are prepared.
 1. So far, mapping has been done in State of Sikkim and in 8 cities - Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Guwahati, Jabalpur, Dehra Dun, Ahmedabad and Gandhidham.
43. ▶ Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) relaxed Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) rules to get Blue Flag certification. These rules restrict construction work around sea beaches.
 1. CRZ rules do not allow any infrastructure on sea beaches and islands. In 2019, MoEF selected 13 beaches of India for Blue Flag certification. Blue Flag certification asks to create some fundamental infrastructures at beaches like solar water plants, portable toilets, CCTV, etc.
 2. *Blue Flag* is an international certification of environmental properties and cleanliness on beaches, run by Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). A *Blue Flag* beach provides hygienic and clean bathing water, basic infrastructure to tourists and sustainable development in the area.
 3. Concept started in France in 1985. South Africa was first outside European country that joined the program in 2001.
 4. Spain has largest number of 566 Blue Flag beaches, while Greece and France have 515 and 395 such blue flag beaches respectively.
 5. Chandrabhaga beach located on Konark coast of Odisha is first beach in India to receive 'Blue Flag Certification'.
44. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released National Draft Policy on rare diseases, which proposes one-time fund of Rs 15 lakhs to treat rare diseases under Ayushman Bharat.
 1. For certain rare diseases with high annual treatment expenses, a digital platform will be set up to raise donations / corporate funding.
 2. An inter-ministerial consultative committee will be set up at national level.

3. There are 7,000 to 8,000 rare diseases. However, therapies are available only to less than 5% diseases. So far, 450 rare diseases have been recorded in India.
45. ▶ Mizoram Govt will celebrate 'Chapchar Kut', the biggest festival of Mizos, on March 6, 2020. Theme will be *Promotion of Mizos' culture and moral code*.
46. ▶ NITI Aayog and UT of Ladakh signed MOU, under which NITI Aayog will support Ladakh through its initiative "Development Support Services to States for Infrastructure Projects" (DSSS). NITI Aayog will expedite project implementations, create unique models of development and will identify high-impact priority projects.
47. ▶ National Real Estate Development Council launched India's first e-commerce housing portal 'HousingForAll.Com', to give a boost to the 'Housing for all' and 'Digital India' initiatives.
48. ▶ Non-Profit Organization Pratham released its annual report *Annual Status of Education Report 2019*, based on survey covering 36,000 children in age group of 4 to 8 years.
1. Around 56.8% of girls and 50.4% of boys are enrolled in government schools. Also, 4 out of every 10 children entering Class I are less than 5 years old, which should be 6 years.
 2. Report suggests that network of Anganwadi Centres should be strengthened.
49. ▶ One Nation One Ration Card Scheme will be implemented across India from June 1, 2020, preponing from original date of 30th Jun.
1. Currently, it is operational in 12 states. Under this, a beneficiary will be able to avail benefits across country using same ration card.
 2. Until now, migrants had to get a new ration card issued, to buy food grains at subsidized prices through Public Distribution System.
 3. Beneficiary will be verified through Aadhaar authentication at Fair Price Shops on electronic point of sale (e-POS) devices.
50. ▶ PM Modi dedicated 4 renovated Ancient Buildings in Kolkata - Old Currency Building, Metcalfe House, Belvedere House and Victoria Memorial Hall.
1. About Buildings -
 1. Currency Building was built in 1833. RBI operated it till 1937 after which it was abandoned.
 2. Metacalfe Hall was named after Lord Metacalfe, Governor General of India between March 1835 and March 1836. It is famous for its 30 Corinthian pillars.
 3. Belvedere House was Mir Jafar's palace.
 2. PM Modi Also attended 150th year celebrations of Kolkata Port Trust, launching a commemorative stamps of the port trust on this occasion. The port was also renamed as Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port on this occasion.
51. ▶ Parshuram Kund Mela held in Arunachal Pradesh, on eve of Makar Sankranti. Devotees visit the sacred place to take a holy dip in the Kund on the occasion of Makar Sankranti every year.
52. ▶ Petroleum Conservation Research Association (Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas) launched fuel conservation campaign *Saksham*, aimed at creating awareness among public about fuel conservation. In collaboration with NCERT, PCRA has prepared a comic book on the theme, "Fuel Conservation".
53. ▶ Supreme Court ordered a stay on NCLAT's order reinstating Cyrus Mistry as executive chairman of Tata Sons, while hearing a petition by Tata Sons challenging National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) decision of reinstating Cyrus Mistry as group's chairman.
1. NCLAT had reinstated Cyrus Mistry as executive chairman of Tata Sons on December 18, 2019. It came 3 years after Mistry was ousted as Tata Son's Chairman.
 2. Cyrus Mistry was restored as executive chairman of Tata Sons by NCLAT, pointing out that actions of former Tata Chairman Ratan Tata against Cyrus Mistry were oppressive.
54. ▶ Tamil Nadu Assembly renamed a fisheries university and a music university after Former CM J Jayalalithaa.
55. ▶ US Based Payments Tech Firm Visa acquired software startup Plaid in a \$5.3 billion deal, aimed at boosting Visa's access to financial technology space.
56. ▶ US rolled back designation of China as a currency manipulator. Instead, it placed China along with nine other trading partners like Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea and Vietnam on a monitoring list.
1. In Aug 2019, US had designated China a "currency manipulator", after China's central bank allowed Yuan (Chinese Currency) to fall against USD.
 2. US accused China of manipulating its currency to gain unfair competitive advantage in international trade and that China still targets on continuing to receive hundreds of billions of dollars which it have been taking from US with unfair trade

practices and currency manipulation.

57. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved 234 crores for construction of a zoological garden named after Shaheed Ashfaqullah Khan in Gorakhpur. Freedom fighter Ashfaqullah Khan was sentenced to death along with Ram Prasad Bismil for the Kakori train robbery, commonly known as Kakori conspiracy of 1925.

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Persons

1. ▶ Indian-American Raja Jon Vurputoor Chari is among 11 new NASA graduates to have completed over two years' of basic astronaut training and are set to be a part of NASA's future missions.
2. ▶ Legendary Indian footballer Chuni Goswami has been honoured with a postal stamp, by Indian Postal Department. He is 3rd Indian footballer after Gostho Paul (1998) and Talimeren Ao (2018), on whose name a commemorative stamp has been issued by postal department.
3. ▶ Visits from India (Jan 11 - 20, 2020) -
 1. India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval Visited Sri Lanka. He discussed setting up of maritime research coordination centre in Sri Lanka. India also extended military assistance of 50 million USD to Sri Lanka.
4. ▶ Visits to India (Jan 11 - 20, 2020) -
 1. Foreign Minister of Denmark, Jeppe Kofod visited India.
 2. Bangladesh Information Minister Muhammad H Mahmud Visited India. India and Bangladesh signed MOU for content exchange programme between All India Radio and Bangladesh Betar.
 1. Also, co-production agreement was signed on biopic of "*BangaBandhu*", Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, which will be released during birth centenary year of Bangabandhu.
 2. Bangladesh is celebrating 'Mujib Year' from March 17, 2020 to March 17, 2021 to mark centenary year of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, first President of Bangladesh.
 3. Permanent Secretary in Ministry of Defence of Finland, Jukka Juusti Visited India. India and Finland signed MOU to further defence cooperation.

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Science

1. ▶ ISRO Launched India's latest communication satellite GSAT-30, from Spaceport in French Guiana, onboard launch vehicle Ariane 5 VA-251, from Kourou Launch Base (French Guiana). It carried India's GSAT-30 and EUTELSAT KONNECT for Eutelsat.
 1. With a lift-off mass of 3357 kg, GSAT-30 will provide continuity to operational services on some of the in-orbit satellites. GSAT-30 derives its heritage from ISRO's earlier INSAT/GSAT satellite series and will replace **INSAT-4A** in orbit. Mission life of GSAT-30 is 15 years.
2. ▶ Scientists discovered oldest material on earth, as a 7 billion years old grains inside meteorite that crashed in a fireball in 1969 into town of Murchison in Victoria State (Australia). Dust analyzed in research came from before solar system's formation known as 'presolar grains', measuring 2 to 30 micrometers in size.
 1. Presolar grains are solid matter coming from dying stars with stardust flung into interstellar space ready to be used again to form new stars.
 2. Scientists previously had found a presolar grain in Murchison meteorite was about 5.5 billion years old, oldest known solid material on earth.
3. ▶ Three new species of tiny frogs discovered in Arunachal Pradesh's Lower Subansiri district by scientists of Zoological Survey of India. New species have been named as 'Liurana himalayana', 'Liurana indica' and 'Liurana minuta'.

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Sports

1. ▶ 2020 Hobart International Women's Tennis (Australia) -
 1. Singles - Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)
 2. Doubles - Nadiia Kichenok (Ukraine) AND **Sania Mirza** (India)
2. ▶ 2020 Indonesia Masters Badminton -
 1. Men's Singles - Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia)

2. Women's Singles - Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand)
3. Men's Doubles - Indonesia's Marcus Fernaldi Gideon AND Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo
4. Women's Doubles - Indonesia's Greysia Polii AND Apriyani Rahayu
5. Mixed Doubles - China's Zheng Siwei AND Huang Ya-qiong
3. ▶ Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Annual Awards presented in 25 different categories for 2018-19 -
 1. Pacer Jasprit Bumrah received highest prize of Indian cricket – Polly Umrigar Award for the best international cricketer (2018-19) in men's category. It carries cheque for 15 lakh. Poonam Yadav clinched the top prize in women's category and was awarded the best international cricketer.
 2. Krishnamachari Srikkanth and Anjum Chopra were awarded Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award and BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award for women respectively.

3. Other Notable Winners -

Award	Winner
Dilip Sardesai Award for highest run getter in Test cricket (2018-2019)	Cheteshwar Pujara
Dilip Sardesai Award for highest wicket-taker in Tests (2018-19)	Jasprit Bumrah
Best International Debut – Men	Mayank Agarwal
Best International Debut- Women	Shafali Verma
Best Performance In Bcci Domestic Tournaments Of 2018-19	Vidarbha C A

4. ▶ Female Hockey Player Rani Rampal has been nominated for “World Games Athlete of the Year” award 2019, by International Hockey Federation (FIH). 2019 will be the 6th edition of the IWGA.
5. ▶ Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar's lap around Wankhede Stadium after World Cup 2011 win has been nominated in Laureas's list for most inspiring sporting event in last twenty years.
 1. Apart from Tendulkar, England's Andrew Flintoff is other cricketer to feature in list. In 2005, England defeated Australia in an Ashes Test, but Flintoff chose to first shake hands with Brett Lee rather than celebrate with his side.
 2. Campaign has shortlisted 20 sporting stories from last 20 years that have left their mark on world. Winner will be decided on public vote.
6. ▶ Fouaad Mirza became 1st Indian equestrian (Horse rider) since 2000, to qualify for Olympics. He will be participating in 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo (Japan).
 1. Earlier, Imtiaz Anees participated in Sydney Olympics in 2000.
 2. Fouaad Mirza was conferred with Arjuna Award in 2019.
7. ▶ Indian wrestlers won 7 medals (4 gold, 2 silver, and a bronze) at 1st UWW (United World Wrestling) Matteo Pellicone Rome Ranking Series 2020 held in Rome (Italy) -

1. 2020 ranking series consists of two events - 1st, which already held in Rome, Italy and 2nd will held i June 2020 in Warsaw (Poland). Indian Medalists -

2.	Bajrang Punia	65kg freestyle	Gold
	Ravi Kumar Dahiya	61kg freestyle	Gold
	Vinesh Phogat	53kg	Gold
	Gurpreet Singh	82kg -Greco-roman	Gold
	Anshu Malik	57kg	Silver
	Sunil Kumar	97kg	Silver
	Sajan Bhanwal	77 kg	Bronze

8. ▶ Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic defeated Rafael Nadal of Spain to make Serbia champion of 1st edition of ATP Cup 2020 held at Ken Rosewall Arena in Sydney (Australia).
9. ▶ Switzerland based International Centre for Sports Studies (CIES) Football Observatory released list of the most valuable football players -
 1. France's Kylian Mbappe topped list with €265 million, followed by Raheem Sterling (England) with €223.7 million and Mohammed Salah (Egypt) with €175.1 million.
 2. Lionel Messi raked 8th with €125.5 million.

