

December Current Affairs 2019

World AIDS Day 2019: December 1st

Theme: Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Community by Community"

13th South Asian Games have formally begun in Kathmandu.

President of Nepal **Bidya Devi Bhandari** declared games open in a glittering ceremony at Dasaratha Rangshala in **Kathmandu, Nepal** on 01 December 2019 Sunday evening.

About Nepal:

- Capital: Kathmandu
- Currency: Nepalese rupee
- Prime minister: KP Sharma Oli
- President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari

BSF Celebrates Its 55th Raising Day in New Delhi

The Border Security Force sentinels, who are India's first line of defence, celebrated BSF's 55th Raising Day on December 1st

BSF Chief: Vivek Kumar Johri

BSF is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces of India and was raised in the wake of the 1965 War on 1 December 1965 for ensuring the security of the borders of India.

Suriname President Desi Bouterse sentenced to 20 years in prison for killing political opponents in 1980s.

Suriname is a small country on the north-eastern coast of South America.

Capital: Paramaribo

Currency: Surinamese dollar

Govt launches drive to enroll 1 cr beneficiaries under two pension schemes PM- SYM & NPS-Traders

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM)

National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons (NPS-Traders)

Labour and Employment Minister: Santosh Kumar Gangwar

santosh kumar gangwar constituency: Bareilly

RBL Bank to raise ₹826 crore from 5 investors

Private sector lender RBL Bank has decided to raise ₹826 crore equity capital from five investors to boost its capital base.

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RBL CEO & MD: Vishwavir Ahuja

HQ: Mumbai

Uttar Pradesh govt to set up state's 1st vulture conservation centre

The Uttar Pradesh government will set up state's first vulture conservation and breeding centre in farenda area of Maharajanj district.

Uttar Pradesh:

Governor: Anandiben Patel

Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath

- Recently UP govt launched a flagship scheme "Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana".
- Govt to set-up National Police University at Greater Noida.

Indian Navy commissions sixth Dornier squadron in Porbandar

The Indian Navy commissioned its sixth Dornier aircraft squadron in strategically located Porbandar town of Gujarat.

It was commissioned by Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Vice-Admiral M S Pawar.

Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh

Navy Day is celebrated on 4 December every year.

Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat

Lewis Hamilton wins Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2019

Red Bull's Max Verstappen finished runner-up while Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc came third.

Lewis Hamilton drives Mercedes.

[List of Formula One Grand Prix wins by Lewis Hamilton \(last 3 months\)](#)

Mexican - October 2019

Russian - September 2019

Hungarian - August 2019

British - July 2019

Sports Minister Kiren Rijju Launched the 3rd edition of Khelo India Youth Games in Guwahati

The third edition of the Khelo India Youth Games will take place in Guwahati from January 10-22,2020.

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1st Edition of Khelo India Youth Games held in New Delhi 2018.
2nd Edition of Khelo India Youth Games held in Pune 2019.
Kiren Rijju Constituency: Arunachal West
Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi

Karnataka wins Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

Karnataka has won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy for 2019 by defeating Tamil Nadu in the finals.

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy: Cricket

India's Men's domestic cricket winners 2019

Duleep Trophy - India Red
Vijay Hazare Trophy - Karnataka
Deodhar Trophy - India B

Walmart India ties up with HDFC Bank to launch Co-Branded Credit Card

US-based retailer Walmart announced that it has tied up with HDFC Bank to launch a co-branded credit card exclusively for members of its Best Price Modern Wholesale "B2B Cash and Carry" stores.

Krish Iyer is the President and CEO of Walmart India
HDFC Bank Managing Director: Aditya Puri

INDIA and ADB sign \$206 million loan to strengthen urban services in 5 Tamil Nadu cities

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$206 million loan to develop water supply and sewerage infrastructure in 5 cities of Tamil Nadu and strengthen capacities of urban local bodies (ULBs) for improved service delivery.

ADB New President: Masatsugu Asakawa
ADB India's GDP forecast 6.5% for FY20
ADB recent loan Agreements:
ADB - \$190 Million - Various projects in Rajasthan
ADB - \$200 Million - Rural roads in Maharashtra
ADB - \$750 Million - Indian railway track electrification
ADB - \$235 Million - Development of Tripura

Uttar Pradesh govt announces 25% subsidy and full stamp duty waiver for defence industry

Uttar Pradesh government has decided to provide 25 per cent subsidy and 100 per cent stamp duty waiver for setting up defence industry in the state.

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Uttar Pradesh:

CM: Yogi Adityanath.

Governor: Anandiben Patel.

Recently UP in NEWS

Etawah Lion Safari inaugurated in Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath launched flagship scheme "Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana

Govt to set-up National Police University at Greater Noida.

India successfully test-fires nuke-capable Prithvi-II Missile

India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed surface-to-surface nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile off Odisha coast.

The missile weighs about 4,600 kg, is capable of carrying 500 to 1000 kilograms of warheads and is thrust by liquid propulsion twin engines.

The trial of the missile, which has a strike range of 350 km.

Related Info:

Lieutenant Shivangi become first woman pilot of Indian Navy will join Naval operations

Pakistan test-fires nuclear-capable ballistic missile Ghaznavi

Odisha Government launches smart learning app 'Madhu' for school students

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched a smart learning app called 'Madhu' for the schools' children in the state.

Odisha recently in News

National Tribal Craft Mela- 2019 held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Odisha launches 'Odisha Mo Parivar' initiative.

Fit India School Rating System launched as part of Fit India Campaign

Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal and Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju launched the Fit India School Rating System.

Shri Pokhriyal said that the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) are playing an important role in every field related with School education. We have more than 16 lakh Schools and over one thousand Universities catering education to over 33 crores students. This is a huge Youth Power which will infuse life into Fit India Campaign.

Ramesh Pokhriyal constituency: Haridwar

Kiren Rijiju constituency: Arunachal West

India's first HAM project in sewerage sector at Sarai, Haridwar

Uttarakhand CM and Union Jal Shakti Minister dedicate Sarai Project in presence of King and Queen of Sweden.

In order to improve the quality of water in river Ganga in the state of Uttarakhand 34 Projects of Sewerage infrastructure works have been taken up at a cost of approximately Rs. 1,144.77 crores for creating treatment capacity of 165.50 MLD, and for laying sewerage network of 152 kms.

Uttarakhand:

Governor: Baby Rani Maurya

Chief Minister: Trivendra Singh Rawat

Recently Uttarakhand in News

India Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise KAZIND -2019 held at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand.

India's first-ever helicopter summit held in Dehradun.

Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on 7 December

The Indian Armed Forces Flag Day is observed every year on December 7 since 1949.

This day is observed to honour the martyrs and the men in uniform who valiantly fought on India's borders.

The fund collected on this day is used for the welfare of the serving personnel and ex-servicemen. The day reminds that the welfare of the soldiers and their families is the responsibility of the entire nation.

Army Day is celebrated on 15 January every year in India

Navy Day is celebrated on 4 December every year in India

Air Force Day is celebrated on 8 October every year in India

Assam govt sets up Anti-Depredation squads

The Assam government has set up 15 Anti-Depredation Squads of the Forest department to deal with human-wildlife conflicts in the state.

Assam:

Chief Minister: Sarbananda Sonowal

Governor: Jagdish Mukhi

Recently Assam in News

Assam Government to launch Arundhati Swarna Yojana.

Assam govt launches Sishu Suraksha App for child right violations.

Assam govt announced No Govt. jobs for people with more than 2 children.

NTPC SIGNS PACT WITH SBI FOR ₹5,000 CRORE TERM LOAN

Power generation company **NTPC** has signed a term loan agreement for **Rs 5,000** crore with State Bank of India (SBI).

The loan facility has been extended at an interest rate linked to 3-month MCLR (marginal cost of funds-based lending rate) of the bank and has a door-to-door tenure of 15 years.

NTPC

Founded: 1975

Headquarters: New Delhi

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Power Grid Corporation got 'Maharatna' status.

Miss South Africa Zozibini Tunzi crowned 2019 Miss Universe

Miss South Africa **Zozibini Tunzi** was crowned Miss Universe 2019 in Atlanta, US

Zozibini Tunzi and Miss Universe Puerto Rico Madison Anderson were the top two contestants for the Miss Universe title.

Related Info:

- Miss India 2019 winner is Suman Rao from Rajasthan.

4th India Water Impact Summit was held in New Delhi

The Union Minister of Jal Shakti inaugurated the fourth water impact summit in New Delhi.

Theme of this summit is "Valuing Water Transforming Ganga".

Related Info:

- Union Minister of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
- Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Constituency: Jodhpur

Indian junior women's team wins 3-nation hockey tournament

The Indian junior women's team has won the 3-Nations Tournament held in Australia.

Indian junior women's hockey team won the 3-Nations hockey tournament based on leading the points table despite loss to Australia in the final match.

India to host Men's Hockey World Cup in 2023

Women's Hockey World Cup 2022 will be held in Terrassa, Spain, Netherlands.

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Israeli high school students to launch self-made satellite "Duchifat-3" from Sriharikota

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

It is an imaging satellite that will be used for ecological research of Earth.

ISRO:

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founded: 15 August 1969

Director: Kailasavadivoo Sivan

Saurabh, Elavenil and Divyansh get ISSF Golden Target award

Indian shooters namely Elavenil Valarivan, Saurabh Chaudhary and Divyansh Singh Panwar received the Golden Target Award from International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) at its headquarters in Munich, Germany.

Divyansh Singh Panwar won a silver medal in 10m Air rifle in the ISSF World Cup 2019.

Elavenil had won a gold in the Rio World Cup and the World Cup Final in China.

Saurabh Chaudhary won a gold medal in the 10m Air pistol category at the Asian Games in the year 2018.

ISSF:

- Founded-1907
- Headquarters - Munich, Germany
- President - Vladimir Lisin

Rohit Sharma becomes La Liga's first Indian brand ambassador

Rohit Sharma became the first non-footballer in history to be named the brand ambassador of the La Liga.

La Liga is the top professional football division of the Spanish football league system.

upcoming cricket world Cup venues

ICC Cricket World Cup

2019 - England & Wales

2023 - India

ICC Women Cricket World Cup

2021 - New Zealand

Andhra Pradesh is to set up virtual police station (VPS) in the Andhra University.

AP's first virtual police station to come up at Andhra University.

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students of the Andhra University will be able to report violence or any other crime online as virtual police station (VPS)

Once a complaint is filed, the concerned police station will take up the issue and initiate a probe.

Recently AP in News

- *AP Assembly passes Disha Bill to award death penalty to rapists within 21 days*
- *Andhra Pradesh launches 'Nadu-Nedu' programme*
- *YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched YSR Vahana Mitra scheme*

Salman Khan appointed as Pepsi's new brand ambassador

Food and beverage giant PepsiCo have roped in Bollywood actor Salman Khan as the new face of its flagship Pepsi brand of carbonated beverage in India.

Latest Brand Ambassadors List

- *Suniel Shetty appointed as the brand ambassador of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).*
- *Hima Das appointed as brand ambassador of Gatorade.*
- *Bharat Pe ropes in Salman Khan as brand ambassador.*
- *PUMA appointed Indian Boxer M C Mary Kom as its new brand ambassador.*
- *PV Sindhu & Sakshi Malik appointed as brand ambassadors of Clean India Mission.*

Wasim Jaffer becomes 1st player to play 150 Ranji matches

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

Jaffer is 41-year-old from Maharashtra, who has been an important part of the title-winning Vidarbha team in the last two years, achieved the rare distinction during their Group A opener against Andhra Pradesh.

He has represented India in 31 Tests and 2 ODIs.

2019 India's Men's domestic cricket season

- *Duleep Trophy winner - India Red*
- *Vijay Hazare Trophy winner - Karnataka*
- *Deodhar Trophy winner - India B*
- *Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy winner – Karnataka*

Odisha to set up 45 new fast track courts

Odisha government would set up 45 fast-track special courts to ensure speedy trial of cases involving crime against women and children

21 courts would be dedicated to cases of rape and sexual harassment of women.

24 fast track courts will specifically deal with Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) cases.

Odisha Governor: Ganeshi Lal.

Recently Odisha in NEWS

- *Odisha has launched a smart learning phone application 'MadhuApp' for school children.*
- *National Tribal Craft Mela 2019 held in Bhubaneswar.*
- *Odisha tagged with Maharashtra under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.*

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Jamaica's Toni-Ann Singh Wins Miss World 2019

Toni-Ann Singh of Jamaica was announced as the winner of the Miss World 2019 beauty pageant held at the ExCeL London.

The 23-year-old Toni-Ann Singh is a women's studies and psychology student at US' Florida State University.

Related Info:

- *Miss India 2019 winner is Suman Rao from Rajasthan.*
- *Miss South Africa Zozibini Tunzi crowned 2019 Miss Universe.*

Kerala launches 'Vijayamritham' and 'Sahachari' schemes to support differently-abled people

The state government of Kerala has launched two social welfare schemes named 'Vijayamritham' and 'Sahachari' to honour differently-abled people as well as NSS, NCC and Student Police Cadet (SPC) units who work for their care and welfare.

The 'Vijayamritham' scheme has been introduced to provide financial assistance for differently-abled people who battled odds and scored high marks in degree, PG and professional courses.

Recently Kerala in News

- Kerala is best performing state in NITI Aayog's School Education Quality Index (SEQI).
- Nadubhagam Chundan snake boat wins 67th Nehru Trophy in Alappuzha.

Ankur Garg appointed as chief commercial officer at AirAsia India

AirAsia India on Sunday announced the appointment of Ankur Garg as its chief commercial officer (CCO), a role in which he will be in-charge of areas such as network and revenue management, marketing and sales and cargo.

Ankur Garg will replace Mr. Sanjay Kumar, AirAsia India's Chief Operation Officer (COO).

AirAsia India:

Headquarters: Bangalore, India

Chairman: S. Ramadorai

CEO: Sunil Bhaskaran

Second edition of BWF World tour finals 2019 held in Guangzhou, China

BWF World Tour Finals badminton winners list

Men's singles - Japan's Kento Momota

Women's singles - China's Chen Yufei

Men's doubles - Mohammad Ahsan & Hendra Setiawan

Women's doubles - Chen Qingchen & Jia Yifan

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Mixed doubles - Zheng Siwei & Huang Yaqiong

NASA will launch rover 'MARS 2020' in the year 2020

NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) announced to launch its rover 'MARS 2020' in the year 2020.

The rover has been built and managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

The rover will land on Mars and explore a landscape shaped by water which is the 'Jezero Crater', the site of an ancient delta.

NASA

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States

Founder: Dwight D. Eisenhower

Founded: 29 July 1958

Gujarat police was honoured with the Presidents Colours award

Gujarat Police was recently honoured with President's Colour for its services and courage. This honour is the biggest honour given by the President to the Armed Forces, Para Military Forces and State Police Forces.

Gujarat became the seventh state police force in India to be bestowed with the honour of the President's Colours.

Recently Gujarat in News

- World's first CNG port terminal to be built at Bhavnagar port in Gujarat
- The Gol has launched the first ever common foundation course called the "Aarambh" for civil servants at the Statue of Unity, Kevadia, Gujarat.
- Gandhinagar becomes Gujarat's first kerosene free district.

Vice Chief of Indian Army Lt General Manoj Mukund to be appointed as 28th Chief of Army Staff

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

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

Before taking charge as vice chief of the Army Staff in September, Lt Gen Naravane was heading the Eastern Command of the Army which takes care of India's nearly 4,000-km border with China.

Related Info:

- The motto of Indian Army: Service Before Self
- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh
- Chief of the Air Staff: Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa

Former Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf sentenced to death for high treason

Pakistan's former military ruler Pervez Musharraf was sentenced to death in the high treason case by a special court.

Musharraf is facing treason charges for suspending the Constitution and imposing emergency rule in 2007, a punishable offence for which he was indicted in 2014.

Pakistan

- Prime Minister: Imran Khan
- President: Arif Alvi
- Pakistani high commissioner to India: Moin-ul-Haq

Music festival Tansen Samaroh began in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

The Tansen Music Festival or the Tansen Sangeet Sammelan or the Tansen Utsav is held every year in order to celebrate the memory of one of the greatest artists in Indian history, Tansen.

The festival attracts thousands of musicians and aspiring singers from all over India. Artistes from the US, Greece, Iran, and Belgium will perform in different sessions of the Tansen festival.

Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Lal Ji Tandon

Recently MP in News

- Madhya Pradesh CM to inaugurate International Film Festival in Khajuraho
- Madhya Pradesh govt to host Orchha festival in March 2020.
- Madhya Pradesh government offers cows for adoption **online**.

AP CM Jagan launches YSR Nethanna Nestham Scheme

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the YSR Nethanna Nestham scheme at Dharmavaram in Anantapur.

Under the scheme, Rs 24,000 will be credited directly into the bank accounts of the weavers having own looms every year. The amount will not be adjusted to the old dues of the beneficiary to the bank.

This scheme will benefit 85,000 handloom weaver families in the State.

Recently Ap in News

- Andhra Pradesh is to set up virtual police station (VPS) in the Andhra University.
- AP Assembly passes Disha Bill to award death penalty to rapists within 21 days.
- Andhra Pradesh launches 'Nadu-Nedu' programme.
- AP Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched YSR Vahana Mitra scheme.

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Cuba names Manuel Marrero Cruz as first prime minister

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel named Tourism Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz as the country's first prime minister since 1976.

The post of prime minister was scrapped in 1976 by the then-revolutionary leader Fidel Castro.

Cuba

- President: Miguel Díaz-Canel
- Capital: Havana
- Currency: peso

Sangita Reddy takes over as FICCI president

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.

She succeeds Sandip Somany, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, HSIL.

Dr Sangita Reddy, a Global Healthcare Influencer, Healthcare Technocrat, a keen watcher of Indian and global economy with deep insights on the new-age businesses, and above all a Social Entrepreneur and Humanitarian, will be FICCI President for 2019-20.

FICCI

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: 1927

Niranjan Hiranandani takes over as ASSOCHAM president

Hiranandani Group Managing Director Niranjan Hiranandani has taken over as the new president of industry body ASSOCHAM. He succeeds Welspun Group Chairman Balkrishan Goenka.

ASSOCHAM

- Founded: 1921
- Headquarters: New Delhi

AIIB announces \$210 million loan for irrigation and solar energy projects in India

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has decided to grant a loan worth of \$210 million for irrigation and solar energy project in India.

\$145 million will be used to improve the irrigation facility and strengthen flood risk management in West Bengal.

\$65 million will be used for 250 MW solar power project in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

AIIB

- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- President: Jin Liqun

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Ecuador declares emergency after Galapagos fuel spill

Ecuador has declared emergency to contain the environmental impact of a fuel spill in the Galapagos Islands, after a barge carrying 600 gallons of diesel fuel sank.

The Galapagos archipelago, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is home to one of the most fragile ecosystems on the planet.

Ecuador

- Capital: Quito
- President: Lenin Moreno

P R Ravi Mohan new chairman of ESAF Small Finance Bank

P R Ravi Mohan has been appointed as the new Chairman of ESAF Small Finance Bank. He has replaced R. Prabha, who has completed his tenure as the Chairman.

He also worked as Chief General Manager with the Department of Banking Operations and Development of Reserve Bank of India, where he was involved in regulation of the commercial banking system in the country.

ESAF Small Finance Bank

- Headquarters: Thrissur
- Founded: March 2017

National Consumer Rights Day: 24 December

National Consumers Right Day is observed on 24 December to raise awareness about the rights of consumers and responsibilities.

Theme: Alternate consumer grievance/dispute redressal

Pine Labs partners with Kotak Mahindra Bank to facilitate EMIs on debit cards.

Kotak Mahindra Bank has tied up with Pine Labs to enable debit card facility for their debit cardholders across point-of-sale terminals by Pine Labs. customers can avail EMI facility with a minimum purchase of Rs 8,000 and repay over 3 months to 12 months.

Kotak Mahindra Bank

- HQ: Mumbai
- MD & CEO: Uday Kotak
- Tagline: Let's make money simple

Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal launches 'Abhinandan' scheme to benefit students

The Assam government recently announced a new education loan subsidy scheme Abhinandan to support the permanent residents of the state.

Under this scheme, the Assam government will provide a one-time subsidy of INR 50,000 to students who have availed education loan for higher studies.

Recently Assam in News

- The state government of Assam has set up 15 Anti-Depredation Squads of Forest department to deal with human-wildlife conflicts in the state.
- Assam Government has announced to launch 'Arundhati Swarna Yojana' on 1 January 2020.
- Assam government launched Sishu Suraksha App for child rights violations.
- The Assam Cabinet decided that no Government jobs will be provided to persons with more than 2 children after 1 January 2021.

BHEL commissions country's first lignite-based 500 MW thermal unit

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has successfully commissioned the first lignite-based 500 MW thermal unit of the 2 x 500 MW Neyveli new thermal power project in Tamil Nadu.

The plant is based on once-through and tower type boiler design which has been adopted for the first time in the country for a lignite-based thermal unit.

It is India's 1st lignite fired 500 MW power plant.

BHEL

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- CMD: Nalin Shinghal

8 West African nations rename common currency to Eco

Eight West African countries have agreed to change the name of their common currency to Eco and severed their earlier currency CFA Franc's links to former colonial ruler France.

The 8 countries are Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

SEBI Slaps Rs 25 Lakh Fine Each on ICRA, CARE, and India Ratings

SEBI imposed Rs 25 lakh penalty each on ICRA, CARE Ratings and India Ratings & Research pertaining to assigning of rating to various non-convertible debentures (NCDs) of IL&FS.

SEBI

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1992
- Chairperson: Ajay Tyagi

Aayushi Dholakia crowned Miss Teen International 2019

A 16-year old Vadodara based Aayushi Dholakia won the crown Miss Teen International 2019. Aayushi Dholakia become the first Indian after 27 years to win the Miss Teen International 2019.

Related Info

- Miss South Africa Zozibini Tunzi crowned 2019 Miss Universe.
- Miss India 2019 winner is Suman Rao from Rajasthan.

Mandu Festival begins at Mandu Madhya Pradesh

The first edition of Mandu festival has been started in Mandu, Madhya Pradesh.

It is a world-famous picturesque tourist destination located in Dhar district of the state. The festival will witness a celebration of the historic heritage blended with the modern vibrancy of the city culture.

The idea of “Khojne Me Kho Jao”, the Mandu festival, is offering an eclectic mix of performing arts, workshops, nature trails, food, architecture, and music to the visitors.

Recently Madhya Pradesh in News

- ADB signed \$490 Million loan agreement with India for PPP to upgrade Madhya Pradesh roads.
- Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Steel Silo based Avantee Mega Food Park in Dewas, Madhya Pradesh.
- Madhya Pradesh has announced 5% reservation to national and international medallists' sportspersons in state government jobs.
- Madhya Pradesh govt to host Orchha festival in March 2020.
- Madhya Pradesh government offers cows for adoption online.

Federal bank tied up with Magicbricks

Federal Bank has tied up with Magicbricks for listing and e-auctioning of immovable properties repossessed by it in recovery proceedings.

The partnership is aimed at speedy recovery of impaired assets of the bank.

Federal Bank

- Headquarter: Kochi
- MD & CEO: Shyam Srinivasan
- Tagline: Your Perfect Banking Partner

Karnataka Bank launches TAB banking service

Karnataka Bank digital initiative launched KBL Xpress SB Accounts a digitized version for opening Savings Bank account through TAB Banking on the spot.

Using the TAB banking account opening process, the Bank can on-board the prospective customer and open the Savings Bank Account.

Karnataka Bank

- Headquarters: Mangaluru
- MD & CEO: Mahabaleshwara M S
- Tagline: Your Family Bank Across India

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Andhra Bank gets award for rural employment

Andhra Bank has received a best performing bank award for RSETIs for 2018-19 financial year.

Andhra bank established 14 Rural Self-Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) under Ministry of Rural Development scheme in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and Kerala.

Andhra Bank

- MD & CEO: Shri J Packirisamy
- Tagline: Where India Banks

Hemant Soren sworn in as 11th CM of Jharkhand

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader Hemant Soren took oath as the 11th Chief Minister of Jharkhand on December 29, 2019. Governor of Jharkhand Droupadi Murmu has administered the oath of office and secrecy to Soren.

This is the second time that Soren has taken oath as the chief minister of the tribal state.

Alamgir Alam and Rameshwar Oraon of the Congress and Satyanand Bhogta, the lone RJD legislator, also took oath along with Soren.

Recently Jharkhand in News

- Jharkhand's Mahuamilan station becomes country's 5500th station to get free wifi facility.
- PM inaugurates Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal at Sahibganj, Jharkhand.

Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane to take over as new Army chief

Lieutenant General Manoj Mukund Naravane took charge as the 28th Chief of Army Staff.

Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat is due to retire on December 31 after a three-year stint as the Army chief.

Mukund Naravane is currently serving as vice-chief of the army.

Before taking charge as vice-chief of the Army staff in September, Lt Gen Naravane was heading the Eastern Command of the Army which takes care of India's nearly 4,000-km border with China.

Related Info:

- Chief of the Air Staff: Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria
- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh
- First Chief of Defence Staff: General Bipin Rawat

Dhanu Jatra begins at Bargarh, Odisha

The famous 11-day Dhanu Jatra celebrated as the largest open-air theatre of the world begins at Bargarh in western Odisha.

The Jatra is based on the mythological story of Lord Krishna and his demon uncle King Kansa.

Dhanu Jatra is the annual drama-based open-air theatrical performance celebrated in and around Bargarh city is considered to be the world's largest open-air theatrical festival that finds a mention in the Guinness Book of World Records.

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Recently Odisha in News

- Odisha Government has decided to set up 45 fast track courts to expedite the trial of cases relating to women and children.
- Chief Minister of Odisha has launched a smart learning phone application 'MadhuApp' for school children.
- National Tribal Craft Mela- 2019 held in Bhubaneswar.
- Odisha tagged with Maharashtra under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

Madhya Pradesh gets its 1st elephant colony in Bandhavgarh forest

For the first time, Bandhavgarh Reserve forest located in Madhya Pradesh (MP), has a colony of elephants who migrated from Chhattisgarh and has stayed on.

Bandhavgarh is a large reserve forest that has plenty of food and water which is the possible reason for this migration and stay.

Recently Madhya Pradesh in News

- Madhya Pradesh government offers cows for adoption online.
- Music festival Tansen Samaroh began in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
- ADB signed \$490 Million loan agreement with India for PPP to upgrade Madhya Pradesh roads.

H R Khan appoints as chairman of micro-finance panel CRL

Former RBI deputy governor H R Khan has been appointed as the first chairman of the steering committee of the Code for Responsible Lending (CRL) in micro-credit.

Syed Modi International Badminton Championships 2019.

Sourabh Verma lost in straight sets to Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei in the men's singles final.

Venue: Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium in Lucknow

List of Winners:

Men's Singles: Wang Tzu-wei

Women's Single: Carolina Marin

20th Edition of Nagaland Hornbill Festival begins at Kisama

10-day Nagaland Hornbill Festival was inaugurated by the State Governor R. N. Ravi with pomp and gaiety at the Naga Heritage Village, Kisama about 10 Km east of Kohima.

Nagaland:

Capital: Kohima

Governor: RN Ravi

Chief minister: Neiphiu Rio

The 7th edition of Indo-Sri Lankan Joint Military Exercise "Mitra Shakti 2019"

The seventh edition of Exercise MITRA SHAKTI- 2019 aimed at enhancing interoperability and operational efficiency amongst the armies of both India and Sri Lanka when deployed as part of United Nations peace keeping forces commenced on 01 December at Aundh Military Station, Pune.

SLINEX - Navy exercise between India and Sri Lanka.

Shri Hari Mohan New Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)

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

Ordnance Factory Board

Headquarters: Kolkata

Founded: 1712

India becomes 1st country to make Haj process digital

The Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi announced that India has become the first country to make the entire Haj process completely digital for pilgrims going on Haj 2020.

Saudi Arabia Assumes presidency of G20

The theme of the event is "Realising Opportunities of the 21st Century for All".

Saudi Arabia became the first Arab nation to take over the G20 presidency. The Saudi G20 presidency is committed to continuing the work from Osaka and promoting multilateral consensus.

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery: 2 December

United Nations observes **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery** on **2nd December** every year to highlight the importance of eradicating contemporary forms of slavery including trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, child labour, forced marriage.

National Pollution Control Day: 2 December

Every year **2 December** is observed as **National Pollution Control Day** to commemorate the people who lost their lives in the unfortunate incident of Bhopal Gas Tragedy that occurred on this day in 1984.

Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated a two-day Conference on Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat and Disaster Management in Jammu.

Jammu and Kashmir Governor: Girish Chandra Murmu

Ladakh Governor: Radha Krishna Mathur

National Emergency - Article 352

State Emergency or President Rule - Article 356

Financial Emergency -Article 360

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UN Climate Change Conference COP 25 begins in Spain

The UN Climate Change Conference COP 25 began on 2 December 2019 in Madrid, Spain.

The conference was earlier planned to take place Chile but due to social unrest in the country location was changed to Spain.

Labour Ministry celebrating Pension Week (30th Nov-6th Dec 2019)

Pension Week focuses on enrolments under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) and National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons (NPS-Traders).

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour and Employment: Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 launched to prevent eight diseases

Government of India launched nationwide vaccination drive to prevent eight diseases under Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 on 02 December 2019.

ADB New President Masatsugu Asakawa

The Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has unanimously elected Masatsugu Asakawa as its new President.

He will succeed Takehiko Nakao.

ADB

Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines

Founded: 19 December 1966

Membership: 68 countries

CRISIL cuts India's GDP growth to 5.1% for FY20

CRISIL Rating revised India's growth outlook for fiscal 2020 to 5.1 per cent from 6.3 per cent citing a dip in fixed investment, weak private consumption growth, weak growth in tax collections and industrial production.

CRISIL Headquarters: Mumbai

Lionel Messi and Megan Rapinoe win Ballon d'Or awards 2019

Lionel Messi was named the best player and was awarded the 2019 Ballon d'Or award in Paris.

He created a world record by receiving the award for the sixth time.

Megan Rapinoe won the women's Ballon d'Or for leading the United States to World Cup glory in July.

Pritiviraj Singh Roopun elected as new President of Mauritius

Prithviraj Singh Roopun was elected as the President of Mauritius by the Lawmakers of Mauritius. He was the former Minister of Arts and Culture of Mauritius.

Mauritius:

Capital- Port Louis

Currency- Mauritian Rupee

Prime Minister- Pravind Jugnauth

December Current Affairs 2019

India-China joint Military Exercise 'Hand-in-Hand 2019' begin in Meghalaya

India-China joint military training exercise 'HAND-IN-HAND 2019' will begin at Umroi, Meghalaya and will focus on training for counter-terrorism operations in the semi-urban terrain.

Theme of the exercise is 'counter-terrorism under United Nations mandate'.

December 3 observed as International Day of Persons with Disabilities

International Day of Persons with Disabilities is being observed on the 3rd December every year to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development and to increase awareness.

Theme: Promoting the Participation of Persons with Disabilities and their leadership: Taking Action on the 2030 Development Agenda.

Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik clinch gold at National Wrestling Championships

Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik registered convincing wins in the finals to claim gold medals at the Senior Wrestling National Championships in Jalandhar.

Vinesh Phogat won gold in women's 55kg category.

Sakshi Malik won gold in women's 62kg category.

Tony Joseph wins 2019 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize

English author Tony Joseph has been awarded the 12th Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize for his 2018 book "Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From".

Indo-Nepal joint military exercise SURYA KIRAN 2019 begins in Rupendehi

The annual joint military exercise 'SURYA KIRAN – XIV' between India and Nepal began at Salijhandi, Rupendehi district of Nepal on 03 December 2019.

India beat Pakistan to win men's volleyball gold in South Asian Games

Indian team defeated Pakistan in the 13th South Asian Games 2019 volleyball competition in Men's category.

South Asian Games 2019 is being held in Kathmandu, Nepal from December 1-10, 2019.

Indian Navy Day: 4th December

Indian Navy Day is celebrated on December 4 in commemoration of Operation Trident, the attack launched by the Indian Navy on Karachi harbour during 1971's Indo-Pakistan war.

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

Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS): Admiral Karambir Singh

Sundar Pichai appoints as the CEO of Alphabet

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.

Bharatiya Poshan Anthem launched by Vice President M Venkaiah

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday launched the "Bharatiya Poshan Anthem" which aims at taking the message of making India malnutrition-free by 2022 to all corners of the country.

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Federer becomes first living-person to have his face on Swiss coin

Roger Federer became the first living person to feature on a commemorative coin minted by Switzerland.

Swissmint has announced that it would honor Roger Federer by releasing a 20 Swiss francs silver commemorative coin in January 2020.

Rajya Sabha passed a bill to merge Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli UTs

The Bill aims to merge two Union territories Daman & Diu, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli into one unit.

The merged Union Territory will be named as Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

India's first maritime museum coming up at Lothal

Underwater or marine archaeology in India is all set to get a boost with the government deciding to establish a National Maritime Heritage Museum at Lothal, a Harappan site on the Saurashtra coast in Gujarat.

Upendar Singh Rawat appointed as the Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica

Upendar Singh Rawat an IFS officer and the current Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Panama has been appointed as the Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica.

Costa Rica Capital - San Jose

World Soil Day: 5 December 2019

World Soil Day is celebrated every year on December 5 to raise awareness of the importance of soil quality for human well-being, food security and ecosystems

Theme: 'Stop Soil Erosion, Save our Future'.

Election Commission of India to implement "Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System" (PPRTMS)

The Election Commission of India has reviewed the system and process of registration of political parties. The new guidelines will be effective from 1st January, 2020.

Mumbai Central gets India's first 'Eat Right Station' by FSSAI

The Mumbai Central Terminus of the Western Railway has been certified as India's first "Eat Right Station" with a 4-Star rating awarded by the FSSAI.

FSSAI:

Founded: August 2011

Headquarters: New Delhi

Reserve Bank keeps repo rate unchanged at 5.15 %

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its 5th bi-monthly Monetary Policy has kept the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.15 per cent.

Repo Rate - 5.15%

Reverse Repo Rate - 4.90%

Marginal Standing Facility Rate - 5.40%

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Bank Rate - 5.40%

CRR - 4%

SLR - 18.5%

Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit 2019 to be held in Goa

Theme for this summit: India Opportunity: Investing in tomorrow together.

Joaquin Phoenix Named PETA's 2019 Person of the Year

'Joker' fame Joaquin Rafael Phoenix American actor from California, United States has been honoured with the PETA 'Person of the Year' Award 2019.

Phoenix turned vegan at the age of three and has been a longtime supporter of the animal rights organization.

India ranks 5th in Global Climate Risk Index

India has been ranked as the fifth most vulnerable country to climate change in the Global Climate Risk Index 2020 according to the Environment think tank, Germanwatch.

Top 4 Places

Japan, Philippines, Germany, Madagascar

NATO Summit 2019 held in Watford, United Kingdom

The United Kingdom will host NATO Heads of State and Government in London

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.

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)

Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium

Founded: 4 April 1949

HDFC ERGO Launches my: Woman Suraksha policy

HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company a non-life insurance provider that the launch of 'my: health Woman Suraksha' policy. Which is specially designed to cover women against numerous illnesses and contingencies they may face during their lifetime, thereby providing financial aid in case of medical contingencies.

HDFC ERGO General Insurance MD & CEO: Ritesh Kumar

India and Russia tri services exercise INDRA 2019

Exercise INDRA 2019 a joint, tri services exercise between India and Russia will be conducted simultaneously at Babina (near Jhansi), Pune, and Goa.

Centre releases list of best Police Stations, Aberdeen in Andaman and Nicobar tops list

Government has released the list of 10 best police stations in India

The objective was to rank the top 10 Police Stations out of 15,579 Police Stations in the country through data analysis, direct observation, and public feedback.

Top 3 police stations in this list

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1. Aberdeen (Andaman)
2. Balasinor (Gujarat)
3. Ajk Burhanpur (Madhya Pradesh)

Punjab govt launches ESTAC programme for startups

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Friday launched Enable Startup Track Acceleration (ESTAC) programme during Progressive Punjab Investors Summit-2019, with an aim to foster entrepreneurship and innovation in the state.

Punjab:

Governor: V.P. Singh Badnore

State animal: Blackbuck

15th Finance Commission submits its report for FY21 to Finance Ministry

Finance Commission headed by N.K. Singh submits report for FY21 to FM Nirmala Sitharaman.

The 15th Finance Commission was constituted by the President of India under Article 280 of the Constitution on November 27, 2017, to make recommendations for a period of five years from April 2020 to March 2025.

Girish Chandra Chaturvedi new chairman of NSE

Girish Chandra Chaturvedi has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Stock Exchange. The appointment comes following the approval of the market's regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India.

The position was vacant since Ashok Chawla resigned as the chairman of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) in January.

NSE:

Founded: 1992

Headquarters: Mumbai

SEBI:

Founded: 12 April 1992

Headquarters: Mumbai

Chairperson: Ajay Tyagi

Union Minister for food processing inaugurated Avantee mega Food Park in Dewas, Madhya Pradesh.

Union Minister for food processing Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Avantee mega Food Park in Dewas. This first food park of central India is spread over 51 acres and has been constructed at a cost of about 150 crore rupees. About 5 thousand local people will get employment from this Mega Food Park.

Harsimrat Kaur Badal Constituency: Bathinda

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

India's foreign exchange reserves have crossed the \$450-billion mark for the first time.

Foreign exchange reserves are the foreign currencies held by a country's central bank.

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Shilpa Shetty's fitness app wins Google Play Awards 2019

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

International Civil Aviation Day is observed on 7 December

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

The International Civil Aviation Day is celebrated every year on December 7 to recognize the importance of aviation to the social and economic development of the world.

IEPFA signs MOU with Bank of Baroda for Investor Awareness

Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) signs MOU with Bank of Baroda for Investor Awareness

This agreement is expected to help customers of BOB to have a deeper insight into the initiatives of IEPFA towards investor awareness and protection, and prompt citizen service delivery by online refund of claims.

President Kovind Presents National Florence Nightingale Awards 2019

President of India conferred 36 awardees with the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2019 at an event in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

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

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has announced 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Mid-wife.

7th OPEC & non-OPEC Ministerial Meet Held in Vienna, Austria

The 7th meeting of Ministers of OPEC and non-OPEC countries held in Vienna, Austria under the co-chairmanship of Saudi Arabia and Russia.

The meeting was attended by Saudi energy Minister Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al Saud, his Russian counterpart Alexander Novak, OPEC Secretary-General Mohammad Barkindo, as well as Venezuelan Energy Minister and Head of the meeting Juan Pablo Perez Alfonzo.

OPEC:

Headquarters: Vienna, Austria

Secretary general: Mohammed Barkindo

Former England Cricket Captain Bob Willis passed away

England captain Bob Willis has died at the age of 70. He was a captain of England team in 18 Tests and 29 one-day internationals before his retirement from all forms of cricket in 1984.

Canada's CPPIB to invest \$600 million in India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)

Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) will invest up to \$600 million through the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) Master Fund, deepening its exposure to India.

The agreement includes a commitment of \$150 million to the NIIF Master Fund and co-investment rights of up to \$450 million in future opportunities to invest alongside the Master Fund.

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NIIF:

Headquarters: Mumbai

CEO: Sujoy Bose

Founded: February 2015

RBI releases Guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Small Finance Banks

The Reserve Bank of India has released the Guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Small Finance Banks in the Private Sector.

RBI proposes **Rs 200 crore minimum capital** for small banks under 'on tap' licence

The small finance bank shall be registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013. It will be given scheduled bank status once they commence their operations.

Sanna Marin to Become Youngest Prime Minister of Finland

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.

She will succeed **Antti Rinne** who resigned as Prime Minister recently due to a postal strike and crisis in Finland

Finland:

Capital: Helsinki

Currency: Euro

International Anti-Corruption Day: December 9

International Anti-Corruption Day is observed every year on 9 December to raise public awareness for anti-corruption.

Theme: United Against Corruption

The United Nations General Assembly on October 31, 2003, adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Super 30 founder Anand Kumar Invited by FIA to attend at Republic Day function in New York

The 'Super 30' Founder Anand Kumar has been invited to India's Republic Day celebration in New York, United States of America (USA) on 26 January 2020.

'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.

World Human Rights Day: December 10

Human Rights Day is celebrated on 10 December annually across the world.

2019 Theme: Youth Standing Up for Human Rights.

This Day came into existence on December 10, 1948, when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations.

December Current Affairs 2019

India ranks 129 in UNDP Human Development Index

India has been ranked at 129th spot in the 2019 Human Development Index released by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Last year India was ranked 130th.

Norway, Switzerland, Ireland are the top three nations on the index.

UNDP:

Headquarters: New York, United States

Founded: 22 November 1965

Head: Achim Steiner

President Ram Nath Kovind lays foundation stone for Paika Rebellion memorial in Odisha

President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone to the memorial being built in memory of the Paika rebellion on the foot hills of Barunei Hills in Khurda district a 200-year-old armed revolt in 1817 against the British East India Company in Odisha.

Odisha Governor: Ganeshi Lal

Haryana CM inaugurates integrated Command Centre at Gurugram

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has inaugurated Gurgaon's ambitious Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC). It has been developed as the nerve centre to provide multifaceted online smart services to people.

Haryana Governor: Satyadeo Narayan Arya.

Russia banned from Olympics for 4 years over doping scandal

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

WADA:

Headquarters: Montreal, Canada

Founded: 10 November 1999

Abu Dhabi selected as world's leading sports tourism destination

Abu Dhabi 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.

This is the seventh time in a row that Abu Dhabi has been selected for this coveted award.

UAE, US joint military exercise 'Iron Union 12' commenced in the UAE's al-Hamra region

'Iron Union 12', a joint military exercise between the ground forces of the UAE and the United States, commenced in 'Iron Union 12', a joint military exercise between the ground forces of the UAE and the United States, commenced.

December Current Affairs 2019

Bar code inventor 'George Laurer' passes away

George J. Laurer, whose invention of the Universal Product Code at IBM transformed retail and other industries around the world, has died at age of 94.

Laurer was an electrical engineer with IBM in North Carolina's Research Triangle Park in the early 1970s when he spearheaded the development of the UPC, or bar code.

Driverless vehicles being tested on 5G technology in UAE

Driverless vehicles are being tested on 5G technology ahead of a planned deployment of such vehicles on roads in the United Arab Emirates.

According to industry reports, 5G-enabled driverless vehicles will be able to have more efficient and quick communication with each other and traffic infrastructure, which will help to minimize traffic jams and bottlenecks. The 5G technology can also enable these vehicles to identify traffic conditions and potential dangers quickly.

Delhi enters the list of top 10 most popular destinations in the world

Delhi has entered the list of world's top 10 most popular destinations in the world, according to the recent data published by Euromonitor International.

Hong Kong has remained the topmost for three consecutive years.

The report was based on international arrival data for the year of 2018 in conjunction with estimated part-year data for 2019.

Delhi ranks at 8th position.

Exim Bank provides USD 500 million credit to Bangladesh for defence procurement

India's Exim Bank (Export-Import Bank of India) has provided \$500 million Line of Credit (LoC) to Bangladesh for defence-related procurement in the neighbouring country.

Exim Bank entered into an agreement with Bangladesh's Armed Forces Division for making available to the latter a Government of India-supported line of credit (LoC) of USD 500 million.

Exim Bank

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1 January 1982

CEO: David Rasquinha

Arnab Goswami elected as News Broadcasters Federation President

The News Broadcasters Federation 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.

J&K Lt Governor Shri Girish Chandra Murmu inaugurates 72-metre all weather Draj Bridge in Rajouri

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Shri Girish Chandra Murmu dedicated the 72-metre-long Multi Cell Box Type Load Class 70 bridge to the Nation in Rajouri today. The bridge spans over Draj nallah and connected Draj Area to Tehsil Kotranka area under District Rajouri. Lt Governor praised Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for their dedication and nation building through infrastructure development and war preparedness through construction of roads, bridge and tunnels.

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MOU signed Between NSIC & ARAMCO Asia for development in Oil & Gas Sectors

An MoU has been signed recently between NSIC and Aramco Asia for the development of MSME Ecosystem in India in Oil & Gas Sector.

From NSIC side Sh. P. Udayakumar, Director (P&M) and from Aramco side Mr. Mohammed Al Mughirah, President, Aramco Asia inked the MoU.

Over 10 lakh crore loans sanctioned under MUDRA Yojana

The government on Monday said more than Rs 10 lakh crore have been disbursed under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana till November 1, 2019

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana launched on April 8, 2015.

International Mountain Day: 11 December

International Mountain Day is celebrated on 11 December every globally to raise awareness about the importance of mountains in our lives and to our planet.

Theme: Mountains Matter for Youth

Praggnanandhaa wins the London Chess Classic FIDE Open 2019

R. Praggnanandhaa from India has won the FIDE Open category of the London Chess Classic held in London.

The 14-year-old Indian chess player finished joint first with Anton Smirnov of Australia both scoring 7.5 points.

13th South Asian Games concluded in Nepal

India concluded the South Asian Games with their highest medal tally in the history of the tournament.

India finished on top with 312 medals comprising 174 gold, 93 silver and 45 bronze followed by Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan.

Suniel Shetty appointed as the brand ambassador for NADA

Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty was appointed as the brand ambassador of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and 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.

Four people won the Right Livelihood Award for the year 2019

Greta Thunberg, Aminatou Haidar, Guo Juanmei and Davi Kopenawa Yanomami won the Right Livelihood Award for the year 2019.

Greta Thunberg for her fight against climate change.

Davi Kopenawa Yanomami for her commitment and efforts to protect the indigenous rights and land.

Guo Juanmei for her work women's rights in China for 25 years.

Aminatou Haidar's efforts for the independence of Western Sahara.

ICSSR chairman B B Kumar passes away

Braj Bihari Kumar was appointed as the chairman of the ICSSR in May 2017.

Indian Council of Social Science Research was established in the year of 1969 by the Government of India to promote research in social sciences in the country.

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C. Sugandh Rajaram was appointed as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Ghana

Sugandh Rajaram has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Ghana. He will replace Birender Singh Yadav as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Ghana. C. Sugandh Rajaram is presently the Consul General, Consulate General of India to Southern Germany.

Himachal Pradesh govt to sell Yamuna water

Himachal Pradesh (HP) state Cabinet chaired by its Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, has approved to sign the memorandum of understanding (MoU) to sell the water of River Yamuna from states's share at Tajewala corridor on payment basis.

The state government would earn Rs 21 crore per annum from this decision.

Himachal Pradesh Governor - Bandaru Dattatreya

Haryana govt distributed 101 Pashu Kisan Credit Cards in Bhiwani

The First Pashu Kisan credit cards in India were distributed to 101 animal farmers in Bhiwani in Haryana.

Haryana Government has set a target to issue 10 lakh Pashu Kisan Credit cards by March 2021.

Under the Scheme, banks give Rs 40783 for a cow and Rs 60249 for a buffalo. The credit amount for goat and sheep each is Rs 4063. In the case of a pig, it is Rs 16337 per pig. For Hens, it is Rs 720 per layer and Rs 161 per broiler hen.

Recently Haryana in News

- *Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar inaugurated the ambitious Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in Gurgaon.*
- *NuGen Mobility Summit-2019 being held in Haryana.*

World's first fully electric commercial plane takes flight in Canada

The world's first fully electric commercial aircraft took its inaugural test flight, taking off from the Canadian city of Vancouver.

The Company said the technology would mean significant cost savings for airlines not to mention zero emissions. It hopes to be using the electric-powered planes to carry passengers by 2022.

Canada

Capital: Ottawa

Currency: Canadian dollar

Prime Minister: Justin Trudeau

ISRO successfully launched RISAT-2BR1 & 9 other satellites from Sriharikota, AP

India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) launched RISAT-2BR1, the fiftieth flight (PSLV-C48), along with nine commercial satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.

RISAT-2BR1 is a radar imaging earth observation satellite weighing about 628 kg. The satellite will provide services in the field of Agriculture, Forestry and Disaster Management. The mission life of RISAT-2BR1 is 5 years.

The nine customer satellites of Israel, Italy, Japan and USA were precisely injected into their designated orbits. These satellites were launched under a commercial arrangement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).

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ISRO

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founder: Vikram Sarabhai

Founded: 15 August 1969

Director: Kailasavadivoo Sivan

17th edition of BioAsia 2020 to be held in Hyderabad, Telangana

Switzerland will be the country partner for 17th edition of BioAsia 2020, to be held from 17th-19th Feb 2020 in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary of the Industries & Commerce and Information Technology, Government of Telangana said that Telangana is committed to promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, and the focus of BioAsia has been centered around innovation over the years.

Telangana and Switzerland have inherent strengths in life sciences and bringing them together will drive significant developments in the life sciences industry globally.

Climate activist Greta Thunberg named Time's Person of the Year

Greta Thunberg, 16 year's old Swedish climate activist was named TIME's Person of the Year for 2019, she is the youngest person to be honoured with the title in the 92-year history of TIME magazine.

Rani Rampal and Saurabh Chaudhary won the Sports Person of the Year awards at the FICCI India Sports Awards 2019

Indian women's hockey team captain Rani Rampal and Asian Games gold medalist shooter Saurabh Chaudhary were honored with the 'Sports Person of the Year 2019' award at the FICCI India Sports Awards-2019 held at FICCI Federation House in New Delhi.

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.

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 several individual and team honours at shooting World Cups.

ADB cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 5.1% in FY20

Asian Development Bank trimmed India's GDP growth for 2019-20 to 5.1% saying consumption was affected by slow job growth & rural distress aggravated by poor harvest.

Earlier ADB forecasted India's GDP for 2019-20 to be at 6.5%.

Sunil Chhetri named as the brand ambassador of PUMA

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

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

ASI identified 138 monuments as 'Must See Monuments' in India

Archaeological Survey of India has identified 138 numbers of monuments as Must-See Monuments and information thereof is made available on the "Must See" portal of Archaeological Survey of India.

December Current Affairs 2019

There are 38 World Heritage Sites in India, out of which 22 Cultural Sites including monuments or buildings and caves are under protection of Archaeological Survey of India.

ASI

Founder: Alexander Cunningham

Founded: 1871

Headquarters: New Delhi

December 12 is celebrated as the International Universal Health Coverage Day

International Universal Health Coverage Day is celebrated globally on 12 December.

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.

Theme for 2019: "Keep the promise"

Andhra Pradesh Assembly Passes Disha Bill

The Andhra Pradesh Assembly on Friday passed the Andhra Pradesh Disha Bill 2019 also known as the Andhra Pradesh Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2019 to award death sentence for offences of rape and gang rape and expediting verdict in trials of such cases within 21 days.

As per the law, the investigation is expected to be completed in 7 working days and trial shall be completed in 14 working days.

'World Habitat Award' for Odisha's JAGA Mission

Odisha won the 'World Habitat Award' for Jaga Mission also called Odisha Liveable Habitat Mission (OLHM).

The Jaga is a society under Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD), Government of Odisha. The OLHM-JAGA aims at transforming the slums into livable habitats and under which 52,682 urban poor families living in the slums have been granted land rights certificate.

This award is given by World Habitat, in partnership with United Nations Habitat, every year, in recognition of innovative, outstanding, and revolutionary ideas, projects, and programmes from across the world in the field of housing.

Odisha

Governor: Ganeshi Lal

Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik

Dell Technologies ties up with UNESCO to boost quality of education

Dell Technologies announced a new partnership with UNESCO MGIEP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace) to enable school teachers adopt technology in classrooms by using ICT tools.

Through this partnership, Dell Aarambh a PC for education program by Dell and UNESCO MGIEP's 'FramerSpace' platform will collaborate to train identified teachers.

The partnership would enable achieving the UN Sustainable Goal 4.7 towards education for building peaceful and sustainable societies and also UNESCO MGIEP in its mission of building social and emotional learning, innovative digital pedagogies and empowering youth.

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UNESCO

Headquarters: Paris, France

Director-General: Audrey Azoulay

Nirmala Sitharaman ranks 34th in Forbes powerful women list

Finance Minister Sitharaman has been ranked as the 34th most powerful woman in the world on Forbes "The World's 100 Most Powerful Women" list.

Sitharaman is one of four Indian women to have made the list including Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, HCL Enterprise CEO and Executive Director Roshni Nadar Malhotra and Landmark Group CEO Renuka Jagtiani.

First 3 persons in this list are Angela Merkel, Christine Lagarde, Nancy Pelosi.

National Tribal Dance Festival to be held in Raipur

A three-day National Tribal Dance Festival will be held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

In the event, international folk artists from 23 states and six other countries are expected to take part and portray their respective tribal folk culture.

Nearly 1,400 artists belonging to 151 art troupes from 23 states and guest artists from six countries including Sri Lanka, Belarus, Uganda and Bangladesh will participate in the three-day programme.

Chhattisgarh

CM: Bhupesh Baghel

Governor: Anusuiya Uikey

IRDAI Constitutes 10 member Working Group headed by T. L. Alamelu to study loss prevention

IRDAI Constitutes 10 member Working Group Under Smt. T. L. Alamelu to make recommendations for loss prevention & minimization in the general insurance industry.

IRDAI is an autonomous body constituted to regulate and develop insurance business in India.

IRDAI

Founded: 1999

Headquarters: Hyderabad

Chairman: subhash Chandra Khuntia

Tamil Nadu overtakes Karnataka to become No 1 in renewable energy

Tamil Nadu has overtaken Karnataka to become India's top renewable power generating state in FY20. Out of the total renewable power generation in the country, nearly 17.2 per cent was from Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu's wind energy capacity is 8,480 MW, which is 24 per cent of the country's total wind generation capacity. State is aiming to achieve 9,000 megawatt (MW) of solar power by 2023, as part of which a new Solar Policy had come into effect in 2019. At present, the total solar capacity is above 3,000 MW.

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

Global payments technology major Mastercard has joined hands with Federal Bank to provide an additional layer of security for digital transactions.

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The launch of the Identity Check programme by Federal Bank and Mastercard will go a long way in providing ease of payments with advanced security to shoppers," said Govind Setlur, Chief Executive Officer, Wibmo, payment solutions partner for Federal Bank.

Mastercard

Headquarters: New York, United States

CEO: Ajaypal Singh Banga

Federal Bank

Headquarters: Aluva, Kerala

CEO: Shyam Srinivasan

Moody's Reduces India's GDP Growth Rate for FY20 to 5.6 Percent

Moody's Investors Service said it has lowered its 2019 GDP growth forecast for India to 5.6 per cent as slow employment growth weighs on consumption. It expects economic growth to pick up in 2020 and 2021 to 6.6 per cent and 6.7 per cent respectively but sees the pace of growth remaining lower than past.

GDP For FY20 – 5.6%

GDP For FY21 – 6.6%

GDP For FY22 – 6.7%

Moody's

Headquarters: New York, United States

CEO: Raymond W. McDaniel

Shrikant Madhav Vaidya to be next Indian Oil Corporation Chief

The Public Enterprise Selection Board has shortlisted Shrikant Madhav Vaidya to be the next Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

He joined the IOC board in October 2019 and will replace Sanjiv Singh who is the current chairman of IOC. The term of office for the post is three years.

Mumbai-Nagpur expressway to be named after Bal Thackeray

The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government on Wednesday decided Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi expressway will be named after Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray.

The decision was taken at the cabinet meeting, presided over by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, on a proposal by Minister Eknath Shinde for the christening of the ₹55,335-crore mega project, also known as Nagpur-Mumbai Samruddhi Mahamarg.

Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Sushil Modi replaces Sitharaman as head of GoM on IGST settlement

Deputy chief minister of Bihar Sushil Modi has replaced Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as the head of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST).

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Since the Union Finance Minister is also the chairperson of the GST Council, she could not have headed the GoM panel the Council said. A report of the recommendations of the GoM that will deliberate on the issues of IGST will be submitted to the Finance Minister in her capacity as the chairperson of the GST council.

Former Prime Minister Tebboune elected Algeria's new president

Abdel madjid Tebboune, a former prime minister and loyalist of Algeria's influential army chief, has been elected the country's new president in a vote boycotted by members of a vibrant nationwide protest movement.

Tebboune, a 74-year-old former prime minister, received 58.15% of the vote, according to results made public Friday by the head of the National Independent Electoral Authority.

Algeria

Capital: Algiers

Currency: Algerian dinar

Amazon launches free audio streaming app Audible Suno for India

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.

International Tea Day: December 15

The International Tea Day is observed annually on December 15 is celebrated since 2005 to draw global attention of governments and citizens towards the impact of the global tea trade on workers and growers also to request for price supports and fair trade.

Deepika Padukone to receive Crystal Award by the World Economic Forum (WEF)

Deepika Padukone won the 26th Annual Crystal Award for spreading awareness about the importance of mental health.

She has been very active on mental health issues and her own battle with clinical depression for the past two years.

The winners will be honoured at the opening session of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2020 on 20 January 2020. She is the only Indian actress to appear in the list of winners of Davos 2020.

Kerala launches 'Vijayamritham' and 'Sahachari' schemes to support differently-abled people

The state government of Kerala has launched two social welfare schemes named 'Vijayamritham' and 'Sahachari' to honour differently-abled people as well as NSS, NCC and Student Police Cadet (SPC) units who work for their care and welfare.

The 'Vijayamritham' scheme has been introduced to provide financial assistance for differently-abled people who battled odds and scored high marks in degree, PG and professional courses.

Through Sahachari scheme to honour NSS, NCC and Student Police Cadet (SPC) units that assist people, with over 40% disability, in their studies and other tasks. The Department of Social Justice has earmarked an amount of Rs. 40,000/- for each district.

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Recently Kerala in News

- *Kerala is best performing state in NITI Aayog's School Education Quality Index (SEQI).*
- *Nadubhagam Chundan snake boat wins 67th Nehru Trophy in Alappuzha.*

PM Modi chairs first National Ganga Council meet in Kanpur

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the first meeting of the National Ganga Council in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. The Council which has been given overall responsibility for the superintendence of pollution prevention and rejuvenation of River Ganga Basin, including Ganga and its tributaries.

Haryana Police adopted a unique barcoding software " Trakea " to make forensic reports tamper-proof

Tareka software is used to ensure that 1000s of digital forensic reports are stored safe and secure. It offers a foolproof security to the samples collected from the crime scene.

This Software features two stages of bar coding to maintain the secrecy of the samples. The samples and reports are sent through biometrically authorized chain. The cases are allocated to the biotechnology experts through automated case allocation.

Dilip Kumar honoured by World Book of Records

Legendary actor Dilip Kumar was honoured by the World Book of Records, London on his 97th birthday

Although the Bollywood icon could not collect the award, the Certificate of Honour was presented to his family members including his brother Aslam Khan, wife Saira Banu, his sisters Saeeda Khan and Farida Khan.

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

Edelweiss Asset Management Company (AMC), a Group company of Edelweiss today announced the public issue of India's first Corporate Bond ETF called the Bharat Bond ETF.

Edelweiss aims to raise an initial amount of Rs 3,000 crore through this bond from institutional players with a green shoe option of Rs 2,000 crore in the 3-year maturity period and Rs 4,000 crore with a green shoe option of Rs 6,000 crore in the 10-year maturity bucket.

Jamaica's Toni-Ann Singh Wins Miss World 2019

Toni-Ann Singh of Jamaica was announced as the winner of the Miss World 2019 beauty pageant held at the ExCeL London.

The 23-year-old Toni-Ann Singh is a women's studies and psychology student at US' Florida State University.

Related Info:

- Miss India 2019 winner is Suman Rao from Rajasthan.
- Miss South Africa Zozibini Tunzi crowned 2019 Miss Universe.

India celebrates Vijay Diwas on 16 December

The nation celebrates Vijay Diwas today to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in 1971 war and remember the martyrs who laid down their lives during the war.

Viswanathan Anand launched his autobiography 'Mind Master'

Indian chess Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand's autobiography 'Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life' was released in Chennai.

The book was authored by [Viswanathan Anand](#) and [Susan Ninan](#) and published by Hachette India.

The book covers wonderful memories of Viswanathan Anand's journey.

Viswanathan Anand was born in Mayiladuthurai, Tamil Nadu

He became the first grandmaster from India in 1988.

Madhya Pradesh govt to host Orchha festival in March 2020.

Namaste Orchha festival marking the cultural landscape of Madhya Pradesh will be held in the ancient town in March 2020.

Orchha, a town in Bundelkhand region, is famous for its Ram Raja temple besides numerous monuments and royal palaces.

Recently Madhya Pradesh in News

- The state government of Madhya Pradesh has announced 5% reservation in government jobs.
- Madhya Pradesh government offers cows for adoption online.

UNESCO removes 'racist' Belgian carnival from heritage list.

A Belgian carnival has been removed from UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list after officials found the "recurrence of racist and anti-Semitic representations" to be incompatible with its principles.

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity announced it would remove [the Aalst Carnival](#) from its heritage list.

UNESCO

- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Director General: Audrey Azoulay

SBI inks \$277 million pact with Germany based KfW bank for energy-efficient housing programme in India

A loan agreement has been signed between State Bank of India (SBI) and German development bank KfW for USD 277 million to establish an energy-efficient housing programme in India.

The programme will be a part of Indo-German Development Cooperation which is guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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SBI:

- Founded: 1 July 1955
- Chairman: Rajnish Kumar

BrahMos Missile successfully test-fired from Chandipur, Odisha

India successfully conducted a developmental trial of the land-attack version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from Chandipur Integrated Test Range, off Odisha coast.

Axis Bank launches co-branded credit card with IndianOil Corporation

Axis Bank announced its partnership with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) to launch a co-branded credit card for customers who prefer cashless and hassle-free payments.

This partnership is an effort from Axis Bank and IOCL to expand their presence in the fast-developing credit card ecosystem in India, with an aim to offer attractive rewards and benefits for its customers.

Axis bank

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Tagline: Badhti ka naam zindagi.
- CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry.

Moody's cuts India's growth forecast to 4.9% for FY20

Moody's Investors Service has lowered India's gross GDP growth projection for the 2019-20 fiscal year to 4.9 per cent from 5.8 per cent.

The major factors responsible for weakening economic growth were rural financial stress, low job creation and liquidity constraints, Moody's Investors Service said in a report.

Moody's

- Headquarters: New York, United States
- CEO: Raymond W. McDaniel Jr

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches 'Jalsathi' programme

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched the 'Jalsathi' programme to ensure the supply of safe drinking water to all households in the state.

The Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) and women federations in Bhubaneswar signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the implementation of the Jalsathi programme.

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Recently Odisha in News

- Odisha Government has decided to set up 45 fast track courts to expedite the trial of cases relating to women and children.
- Chief Minister of Odisha has launched a smart learning phone application 'MadhuApp' for school children.
- National Tribal Craft Mela- 2019 held in Bhubaneswar.
- Odisha tagged with Maharashtra under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

Apple, Amazon, Google partner to make smart home devices more compatible

Amazon.com Inc, Apple Inc and Alphabet Inc's Google are partnering to lay the groundwork for better compatibility among their smart home products.

Tripura gets its first Special Economic Zone (SEZ)

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has notified the setting up of the first-ever Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Tripura.

The SEZ is being set-up at Paschim Jalefa, Sabroom, South Tripura District, which is 130 km away from Agartala.

The estimated cost for the project is around Rs.1550 Crore.

Tripura

- Capital: Agartala
- Chief minister: Biplab Kumar Deb
- Governor: Ramesh Bais

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Andhra Assembly passes Bills enabling separate commissions for SCs, STs

The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed two Bills that enable setting up of separate Commissions for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

The Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Scheduled Castes Bill was tabled by Social Welfare Minister P Viswarup. Both the Bills were passed by voice vote, which is taken by noting the relative strength and volume of calls of aye and no.

Recently AP in News

- Andhra Pradesh is to set up virtual police station (VPS) in the Andhra University.
- AP Assembly passes Disha Bill to award death penalty to rapists within 21 days.
- Andhra Pradesh launches 'Nadu-Nedu' programme.
- AP Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched YSR Vahana Mitra scheme.

Nagaland Governor R N Ravi to hold additional charge of Meghalaya

Nagaland Governor R N Ravi has been given additional charge of Meghalaya. The decision has been taken by the President of India in the wake of the "absence of leave" of Tathagata Roy, Governor of Meghalaya.

The move assumes significance as the state has witnessed protests against the amended Citizenship Act, that seeks to grant Indian citizenship to religious minorities of Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Pakistan facing persecution there.

Ministry of Coal to establish "Sustainable Development Cell" to promote environmentally sustainable coal mining

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The Ministry of Coal has decided to establish a Sustainable Development Cell (SDC) in order to promote environmentally sustainable coal mining in the country.

It will address environmental concerns during the decommissioning or closure of mines.

Rashtrapati Bhavan hosted university heads' conference

Rashtrapati Bhavan hosted a conference of 46 Heads of Central Universities and Institutes of Higher Learning in several fields including agriculture, pharmaceuticals, aviation, design, petroleum and energy.

Google Earth covers 98 percent of the entire population

Search engine giant Google has revealed that its powerful mapping service, Google Earth now covers more than 98 percent of the world.

It has captured 10 million miles of Street View imagery, a distance that could circle the globe more than 400 times.

Google

CEO: Sundar Pichai

Founded: 4 September 1998

Headquarters: California, United States

Parent organization: Alphabet Inc

Madhya Pradesh CM to inaugurate International Film Festival in Khajuraho

Madhya Pradesh, the Chief Minister Kamal Nath inaugurates the 7-Day International Film Festival in Shilpkala village of Khajuraho.

The International Khajuraho Film Festival is being organized by the Prayas Sanstha in collaboration with the State Government.

Recently MP in News

- Madhya Pradesh govt to host Orchha festival in March 2020.
- The state government of Madhya Pradesh has announced 5% reservation in government jobs.
- Madhya Pradesh government offers cows for adoption online.

India Ranks 112 in WEF's Global Gender Gap Report 2020

India has slipped to the 112th spot from its 108th position in 2018 in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2020, which covered 153 economies.

Last year, in 2018, India was on the 108th position on the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Report. The report also highlights that as per the present scenario, workplace inequality will not be erased until the year 2276.

While Iceland remains the world's most gender-neutral country.

Yemen at 153 is the worst ranked country in this list.

Intel Acquires AI chip startup Habana Labs For \$2 Billion

Intel has announced that it will acquire Israeli chip startup Habana Labs for \$2 billion.

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Habana Labs stands out as one of the first to deliver working hardware with impressive performance claims for both training and inference processing. Habana Labs launched its Goya chip for inference processing in September 2018, claiming roughly 3X performance advantage over NVIDIA with lower latency.

Sridhar Patra appointed as the CMD of NALCO

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appointed Sridhar Patra as the new chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO).

Sridhar Patra is at present Director (Finance) in the National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO).

He has been appointed as the CMD of NALCO till the date of his superannuation, i.e. October 31, 2024.

Government Instant Messaging System (GIMS)

Government Instant Messaging System (GIMS) is a prototype of an Indian equivalent of popular messaging platforms, such as WhatsApp and Telegram for secure internal use.

GIMS seeks to replace existing platforms like WhatsApp, Telegram and Signal which are being used by a majority of government departments and organisations.

It is designed and developed by the Kerala unit of National Informatics Centre (NIC).

Ben Stokes wins BBC Sports Personality of the Year award 2019

English cricket player Benjamin Andrew Stokes (Ben Stokes), was named as the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year 2019.

Ben Stokes was awarded for his key role in England's win in the 2019 cricket World Cup which was held in England and Wales in the United Kingdom.

World's first liquefied hydrogen carrier 'Suiso frontier' launched in Japan

Japanese public multinational corporation has launched the world's 1st ocean-going liquid hydrogen carrier ship named as 'Suiso Frontier' at a ceremony held at Kobe Works yard, Japan.

Weighing approximately 8,000 tonnes, Suiso Frontier was launched by Kawasaki Heavy Industries at its Kobe Works yard and marks the first stage in the Australia-Japan pilot project to produce liquefied hydrogen from brown coal.

Amitabha Bagchi wins DSC prize for South Asian Literature 2019

Amitabha Bagchi's novel Half the Night Is Gone has won the \$25,000 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2019.

The winner was announced at the IME Nepal Literature Festival and he was awarded the prize by the Nepalese Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali and DSC Prize co-founder Surina Narula.

Smriti Mandhana named in ICC Women's ODI & T20 teams of the year.

Indian women's cricket player Smriti Mandana was named in both ICC women's ODI and T20 teams of the year.

ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year:

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Alyssa Healy (Australia), Smriti Mandhana (India), Tamsin Beaumont (England), Meg Lanning (Australia), Stafanie Taylor (West Indies), Ellyse Perry (Australia), Jess Jonassen (Australia), Shikha Pandey (India), Jhulan Goswami (India), Megan Schutt (Australia), Poonam Yadav (India).

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

The 5th meeting of the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) of the 15th Finance Commission was held in New Delhi. After the meeting, Chairman NK Singh stated that future revenue is the most critical issue for the Finance Commission. He further stated that tax regime needs predictability and certainty.

India signs \$250 million loan agreement with ADB to expand energy efficiency investments in India

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$250 million loan to Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) to expand energy efficiency investments in India that will benefit agricultural, residential and institutional consumers.

In addition, \$46 million financing will be provided from the Clean Technology Fund (CTF), to be administered by ADB.

EESL will also explore business models to generate greater public demand for e-vehicles to support India's current push for electric vehicles.

ADB

President: Takehiko Nakao

Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines

Founded: 19 December 1966

Deepak Punia named 2019 UWW's 'Junior Freestyle Wrestler of the Year'

World championships silver medallist Deepak PUNIA has been named United World Wrestling's (UWW) Junior Freestyle Wrestler of the Year.

Deepak Punia is the first Indian wrestler in 18 years to win a junior world title at the Junior World Championships held in Tallinn, Estonia in August 2019.

International Migrants Day observed on 18 December

The International Migrants Day is observed on 18 December every year to protect the rights of migrant workers and members of their families.

The International Migrants Day is observed by the United Nations since 1990 in order to protect the rights of the migrants.

Theme: "We Together"

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad launches National Broadband Mission 2020

The Union government has launched National Broadband Mission to provide Broadband access to all villages by 2022.

The mission aims to connect 600,000 villages across India with an investment of Rs 7 lakh crore in the next 4 years from both government and private sector.

Broadband access to all villages by 2022.

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Facilitate universal and equitable access to broadband services for across the country and especially in rural and remote areas.

Laying of incremental 30 lakhs route km of Optical Fiber Cable and increase in tower density from 0.42 to 1.0 tower per thousand of population by 2024.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah lays foundation for Bharat Vandana Park in Dwarka, New Delhi

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister today laid the foundation stone of Bharat Vandana Park at Sector 20, Dwarka in New Delhi.

The park will be a major tourist attraction covering an area of 200 acres at a cost of Rs.550 crores, the park is located near the Indira Gandhi International Airport and metro station.

Amit Shah Constituency: Gandhinagar

GEM launches National Outreach Programme "GEM Samvaad"

A national outreach Programme, GeM Samvaad, was launched by Anup Wadhawan, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and Chairman, GeM in New Delhi.

The outreach programme will take place with stakeholders across the country and with local sellers in order to facilitate the on-boarding of local sellers on the marketplace while catering to specific requirements and procurement needs of buyers.

HDFC Bank crosses \$100 billion in market cap

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

Reliance Industries Ltd (\$140.74 billion)

Tata Consultancy Services (\$114.60 billion)

HDFC Bank is now ranked 110th in the list of world's most valued companies. 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.

HDFC Bank

Managing Director: Aditya Puri

Headquarters: Mumbai

Sahitya Akademi announced 22 winners for the 2019 Sahitya Akademi Awards

Sahitya Akademi has announced the winners of the 2019 Sahitya Akademi Awards in 23 languages.

In Hindi, Nand Kishore has been awarded for his Poetry 'Chilte Hue Apne Ko'.

In English, Dr Shashi Tharoor has been awarded for his Non-Fiction 'An Era of Darkness'.

In Tamil, Cho Dharman has been awarded for his Novel 'Sool'.

In Gujarati, Ratilal Borisagar has awarded for his Essays 'Mojama Revu Re'.

Thawarchand Gehlot launches Braille version of 'Exam Warriors'

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thawarchand Gehlot released the Braille Edition of the book "Exam Warriors" authored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

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The braille version in English and Hindi has been printed by Rajasthan Netraheen Kalyan Sangh in Jaipur.

The book contains a detailed-deion of the animated picture and various yoga asanas which will let students imagine the pictorial graphics with ease.

Thaawarchand Gehlot Constituency: Shajapur, Madhya Pradesh.

India is world's third largest producer of scientific articles

India has become the world's third-largest publisher of science and engineering articles, according to a US government agency data. With over 1.35 lakh scientific papers published.

China has topped the report as the world's largest publisher while the US stands at second position.

Gem Partners with UCO Bank and Bank of Maharashtra for Payment Related Services

The Government e-Marketplace signed two MoUs with Bank of Maharashtra and UCO Bank on 16 Dec 2019 to offer a number of services including transfer of funds through GeM Pool Accounts (GPA), advising of Performance Bank Guarantees (e-PBG) and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) to the registered users on the portal.

The MOU was signed by S Suresh Kumar, Additional CEO (GeM) and Anil Kumar, General Manager, UCO Bank and V D Kolhatkar, Field General Manager, Bank of Maharashtra.

Environmental Sustainability and Economic Development Summit held in Delhi

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar addressed a Summit on "Environmental Sustainability and Economic Development in Delhi.

Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change: Prakash Javadekar

Prakash Javadekar elected to the upper house Rajya Sabha as a Member of Parliament from Maharashtra.

Chennai Corporation of Tamil Nadu launches country's first waste exchange platform

Chennai residents can now buy and sell reusable and recycled products online as the Greater Chennai Corporation has launched a new website that facilitates waste-trading.

'www.madraswasteexchange.com' is India's first waste exchange platform for vendors and buyers of waste to connect. The website will be run as a pilot for the next three months, after which more features will be added to the platform.

RBI to waive off NEFT, RTGS transfer charges for savings account

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has now instructed banks to make all online payments done through NEFT and RTGS free of cost for savings account holders. Several banks have already made it free while others have been asked to do so from January 2020.

Fiat Chrysler And Peugeot Sign \$50 Billion Merger Deal

French carmaker Peugeot SA and US-Italian automotive manufacturer Fiat Chrysler have signed an agreement to create the world's fourth largest automaker.

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

The agreement between Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and Peugeot SA provides for a 50:50 merger of their busi

International Human Solidarity Day: 20 December

International Human Solidarity Day is observed on 20 December every year.

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The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) identified solidarity as one of the fundamental and universal values and designated 20 December of each year as International Human Solidarity Day.

The Day aims to raise public awareness of the importance of solidarity. It encourages debate on the ways to promote solidarity for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals including poverty eradication.

ADB, India Sign \$ 490 Million Loan Upgrade Madhya Pradesh Roads

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India today signed a \$490 million loan for public-private partnership (PPP) project to upgrade about 1,600 km of state highways and major district roads from single-lane to two-lane widths in the state of Madhya Pradesh. An additional \$286 million investment will be mobilized through private sector participation under the PPP modality.

The project will upgrade 750 km of state highways and 850 km of MDRs to two-lane and all-weather standards with road safety features.

It will also develop an e-maintenance system, which can record defects or required maintenance, along with a training program to develop capacity on contract implementation and project finance in the Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation.

ADB

Headquarters: Manila, Philippines

President: Takehiko Nakao

Devesh Srivastava takes charge as CMD of GIC Re

The government has appointed Devesh Srivastava as chairman and MD of national reinsurer General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re).

Mr. Srivastava began his career with Oriental Insurance Company in Delhi. Subsequently, in 1999 Mr. Srivastava's services were transferred to GIC Re.

General Insurance Corporation India

Headquarters: Mumbai

Ethiopia launches its first satellite

Ethiopia launched its first satellite, a landmark achievement for the country's space program that caps a banner year for the African space industry.

Solomon Belay, director-general of the Ethiopian Space Science and Technology Institute, announced the satellite was designed by Chinese and Ethiopian engineers and the Chinese government paid about \$6m of the more than \$7m manufacturing costs.

The 70-kilogram remote sensing satellite is to be used for agricultural, climate, mining and environmental observations.

Ethiopia

Capital: Addis Ababa

Currency: Ethiopian Birr

Prime minister: Abiy Ahmed

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Govt approves ₹436 crores for digital upskilling of IT workforce

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has approved Rs.436 crore for Future Skills PRIME (Programme for Reskilling/Upskilling of IT Manpower for Employability) over a period of three years.

The programme the next level of the Future Skills platform seeks to skill 412,000 professionals in new technology such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality, Internet of Things, Big Data, cybersecurity, social and mobile, etc.

Union Minister for Law and Justice, Communications and Electronics and Information Technology: Ravi Shankar Prasad

Ravi Shankar Prasad Constituency: Patna Sahib

Indian men's football team ranked 108th in latest FIFA rankings

The Indian men's football team remained static at 108th spot in the year-ending FIFA rankings.

India, however, lost 11 places throughout the year.

Belgium ranked the first position while In the Asian rankings, Japan is followed by Iran (33), Korea (40), Australia (42) and continental champion Qatar (55).

Qatar will host FIFA World Cup 2022

FIFA:

President: Gianni Infantino

Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland

Indian Navy & Coast Guard conduct largest-ever anti-hijacking Exercise 'Apharan'

The Indian Navy, in collaboration with Indian Coast Guard, Cochin Port Trust, and other concerned stake holders, conducted a large-scale Anti Hijacking Exercise off the Port of Kochi.

The exercise Apharan aimed to streamline the response mechanism. It focused on the preparedness of the navy to thwart any attempt by to hijack a merchant vessel or attempt forced entry of a rogue or commandeered merchant vessel into Kochi harbour.

Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh

Afghanistan first country to recognize Indian Pharmacopoeia

The Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) has been recognised formally by the National Department of Regulation of Medicines and Health Products of the Ministry of Public Health of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. It will also be used based on the requirement as reputable pharmacopoeia in the laboratory of medicines and health products quality.

Afghanistan has become the first country to recognize IP pursuant to the efforts of Department of Commerce and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Fitch cuts India GDP growth forecast to 4.6% in FY20

Fitch Ratings on Friday cut its growth forecast for India to 4.6 per cent for the 2019-20 fiscal from the previous estimation of 5.6 per cent after factoring in significant deceleration in past few quarters due to credit squeeze and deterioration in business and consumer confidence.

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Portugal announces Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize

Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa announced the setting up of a Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize in order to help promote Mahatma Gandhi's ideals.

Every year, the Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize would be inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's different thoughts and quotes. The first edition of this prize will be dedicated to animal welfare as Mahatma Gandhi said that the greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated.

Portugal

Capital: Lisbon

Currency: Euro

DRDO successfully flight-tests Pinaka Missile System off Odisha coast

Pinaka Missile System developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was successfully flight-tested from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the Odisha Coast.

The Pinaka is an Artillery Missile System capable of striking into enemy territory up to a range of 75 kilometres with high precision.

The mission achieved all the objectives including enhancing the range, accuracy and sub-system functionality.

The missile was fired from Pinaka launcher system in deployment configuration. The flight article was tracked by multiple range systems viz. Telemetry, Radars, Electro-optical targeting system (EOTS), etc.

DRDO

Chairman: G Satheesh Reddy

Headquarters: New Delhi

weightlifter Mirabai Chanu wins gold in Qatar International Cup

Former world champion weightlifter from Manipur, Saikhom Mirabai Chanu clinched gold at the 6th Qatar Cup International Weightlifting Championship in Doha.

Mirabai Chanu won gold under the women's 49 kg category at the event, which is a qualifying event for Tokyo 2020.

The 24-year-old weightlifter, who bagged gold in the 2018 Commonwealth Games, managed to register only one clean lift in both the snatch and clean and jerk categories. She lifted 83kg in snatch and 111kg in clean and jerk to finish on top of the podium.

RBI to buy, sell govt bonds worth Rs 10,000 Crore

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will simultaneously purchase and sell government securities worth 10,000 crore rupees under a special Open Market Operation (OMO).

The exercises are done by the central bank when the proceeds from the sale of short-term securities are used to buy long-term government securities or bonds in a bid to bring down interest rates on long-term securities.

RBI

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1 April 1935

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Governor: Shaktikanta Das

PM Modi addresses ASSOCHAM Annual Conference in Delhi

PM Modi addressed the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) in New Delhi. This is to celebrate the 100 years of ASSOCHAM.

Theme: New India Aspiring for 5 trillion USD

ASSOCHAM

Headquarters: New Delhi

President: Balkrishan Goenka

Wipro ties up with NASSCOM to launch Skilling Platform

Wipro has partnered with Indian IT industry apex body, NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Services Companies) to launch 'Future Skills' platform to train 10,000 students from over 20 engineering colleges in India with new age technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data, cloud computing, cyber security and internet of things.

NASSCOM

Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh

President: Debjani Ghosh

Andhra Pradesh topped in organizing Fit India School Week

Andhra Pradesh tops in organizing Fit India School Week more than 21,000 schools receive FIT India flag.

The Fit India School week has so far been organized by 26,845 schools. Andhra Pradesh tops the chart with 13,839 Fit India Schools celebrating FIT India Week. Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh are distant second & third with 1,967 and 1,504 schools respectively.

Recently AP in News

- Andhra Pradesh is to set up virtual police station (VPS) in the Andhra University.
- AP Assembly passes Disha Bill to award death penalty to rapists within 21 days.
- Andhra Pradesh launches 'Nadu-Nedu' programme.
- AP Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched YSR Vahana Mitra scheme.

International Astronomical Union names new star 'Sharjah'

The International Astronomical Union 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.

The announcement was made during a press conference of the IAU in the French capital, Paris, celebrating the centennial of the union.

International Astronomical Union Headquarters: Paris, France

Meghalaya Assembly to pass resolution to bring state under ILP

The Meghalaya Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Government of India to implement Inner Line Permit in the state under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873.

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The one-day special session was conducted with the sole intention to pass the resolution in view of the demand by the indigenous residents of the state for implementation of the ILP.

Recently Meghalaya in News

- 4th edition of India International Cherry Blossom Festival Celebrated in Shillong.
- Justice Muhammad Raffiq sworn in as Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court.

Meghalaya:

- Chief Minister: Conrad Sangma
- Governor: Tathagata Roy

IPS officer Atul Karwal appointed as Director of National Police Academy

The Union Government appointed a senior Gujarat Cadre IPS officer Atul Karwal, as Director of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy in Hyderabad.

"R N Kao: Gentleman Spymaster" book authored by Nitin Gokhale

Book titled "R N Kao: Gentleman Spymaster" authored by former journalist Nitin Gokhale was released by Army chief-designate Lieutenant General Manoj Naravane.

Malayali boy Aditya to receive Bharat Award for bravery

Aditya K. of Ramanattukara, Kozhikode, has become the first child from the State to bag the Bharat Award for bravery.

The Bharat Award has gone to Aditya for rescued 20 people from a bus carrying members of the Calicut University Pensioners' Forum and their families when it caught fire coming down a steep mountain road.

Governor of Kerala: Arif Mohammad Khan.

National Mathematics Day: 22 December

National Mathematics Day is observed on 22 December every year to mark the birth anniversary of legendary Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan and his contributions in the field of mathematics.

The former Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, paid tribute to Srinivasa Ramanujan at a function organized on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of the great mathematician Srinivasa Iyengar Ramanujan in Chennai. National Mathematics Day celebrated across the country for the first time.

The Indian mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan was born on 22 December 1887 and died on 26 April 1920.

Rafael Nadal, Ashleigh Barty named 2019 ITF World Champions

Rafael Nadal and Australian Ashleigh Barty have been named International Tennis Federation's (ITF) World Champions for 2019.

Ashley Barty was ranked number one in the year 2019 and played his first major grand slam role in this year. Barty had also won the WTA Finals title and played his key role in leading Australia to the Fed Cup final for the first.

Rafael Nadal currently the world number one, this year won his 12th French Open and a fourth US Open.

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Vice President releases the book “Turbulence and Triumph– The Modi Years”

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

The book has been written by Rahul Agarwal and Bharti S Pradhan and is published by Om Books International.

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.

National Farmers Day or Kisan Diwas: 23 December

National Farmers Day or Kisan Diwas observed every year in India on the 23rd of December to honor the birth anniversary of the fifth Prime Minister of India, Choudhary Charan Singh.

He played a pivotal role in the Agricultural Sector of India by drafting and enacting various bills for farmer’s reforms, introduced many policies to improve the lives of Indian farmers.

Indian Archaeologist Nagaswamy honoured in Bangladesh

Renowned Indian archaeologist R. Nagaswamy was honoured at the Silver Jubilee International Conference of Art held in Dhaka by Bangladesh Culture Minister K.M. Khalid.

He was honoured for the contribution of Nagaswamy to art, archaeology, history, and culture.

He served as the founder-director of Tamilnadu Archaeology Department.

India constructs Girls' Hostel for Nepal Armed Police Force School

The Government of India has constructed Girls’ Hostel for Nepal Armed Police Force School in Kirtipur, Kathmandu.

Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Dr Ajay Kumar inaugurated hostel building. Nepal Armed Police Force (APF) School is an academic institution created under the APF Welfare Service Centre of Nepal Armed Police Force.

Nepal

Prime Minister: K P Sharma Oli

President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari

Monisha Ghosh named as first woman CTO at FCC in US

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).

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. Ghosh will take charge on January 13 next year.

Sikkim CM laid the foundation stone two IPU of Sikkim IFFCO

The Chief Minister Shri. Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) laid the foundation stone of two Integrated Processing Units of Sikkim IFFCO Organics Limited in Rangpo, East Sikkim.

Sikkim IFFCO is a joint venture between the world’s biggest fertilizer Cooperative, IFFCO, and Government of Sikkim.

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The main purpose to promote and market the organic produce of the country and especially from Sikkim and other north-eastern states of India.

Harsh Vardhan Shringla appointed as Foreign Secretary

Narendra Modi government approved the appointment of Indian ambassador to the United States Harsh Vardhan Shringla as the next foreign secretary. He replaced Vijay Gokhale.

Harsh Vardhan Shringla served as an ambassador to Bangkok from 2014 to 2016 and later as a High Commissioner to Dhaka for two years and served at UNESCO in France, the UN in New York besides Vietnam, Israel, and South Africa.

Andhra Pradesh CM Jagan lays foundation stone for Rs 15,000 crore steel plant.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy laid the foundation stone for establishing a high-grade steel plant at Sunnapurallapalli village in his native Kadapa district.

The Rs 15,000-crore plant with a three-million-tonne capacity per annum would provide jobs to about 25,000 people and would be completed in three years.

A total of 3,295 acres of land has to be acquired in Jammalamadugu area of Kadapa district for the plant to be set up with private investment.

Oxygen Parlour opened at Nashik Railway Station to combat Air Pollution

Oxygen Parlour has been opened at Nashik Railway Station in Maharashtra by Indian Railways in collaboration with Airo Guard to provide an experience of breathing clean air to the commuters and to battle against rising air pollution.

The Co-founder of Airo Guard, Amit Amritkar said that the concept of Oxygen Parlour is based on the recommendation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

17th India-EU Summit 2020 to be held in Brussels

The President of European Council Charles Michel invited Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to attend the 17th India-EU summit in 2020.

The summit will focus on areas such as Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement, Europol, counter-terrorism, Euroatom, climate change, etc.

The summit will be held at Brussels, Belgium.

President Ram Nath Kovind releases mobile app of Red Cross Society of India

President Ram Nath Kovind today released the mobile app of the Red Cross Society of India in Hyderabad.

This app developed by the Telangana Centre for Good Governance in less than three months. The mobile app is accessible in all languages. The developers informed that the access to blood bank and Red Cross membership would become easy with the launching of the mobile app.

SEBI signs pact with Kazakhstan's AFSA for mutual co-operation, technical assistance

Markets regulator SEBI has signed a bilateral MoU with Kazakhstan-based Astana Financial Services Authority (AFSA) for mutual co-operation and technical assistance.

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The MoU was signed by SEBI Chairman Ajay Tyagi and the acting CEO of AFSA Mukhtar Bubeyev.

The objective of the bilateral memorandum of understanding (MoU) is to strengthen cross border co-operation in the area of securities regulation.

Prime Minister Modi Launched Atal Bhujal Yojana

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) and named the Strategic Tunnel under Rohtang Pass after Vajpayee, in an event held in New Delhi.

Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL)

The main objective of this scheme is to improve ground water management through participatory groundwater management and bringing about behavioural changes at the community level for sustainable groundwater resource management in seven States, viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

The Scheme will benefit nearly 8350 Gram Panchayats in 78 districts of the above mentioned 7 States. Out of the total outlay of Rs. 6000 crores to be implemented over a period of 5 years 50% shall be in the form of World Bank loan and be repaid by the Central Government. The remaining 50% shall be through Central Assistance from regular budgetary support.

Tunnel under Rohtang pass to be renamed after Atal Bihari Vajpayee

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved to rename Strategic Tunnel under Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The historic decision to construct a strategic tunnel below the Rohtang Pass was taken by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The 8.8-kilometre long tunnel is the world's longest tunnel above an altitude of 3,000 metres.

Kamareddy won UNICEF 2019 Award for Swachh Bharat implementation

Kamareddy district of Telangana has secured the United Nations International Children's and Education Fund (Unicef) 2019 Award for effective implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission in water sanitation and hygiene sectors.

Kamareddy district 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.

Tamil Nadu tops in coverage under micro-irrigation

The website of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has released the data on states measuring the coverage of area under 'micro-irrigation' (MI) in 2019. State with the highest area under micro irrigation Tamil Nadu (1.39 lakh hectares, i.e., 38% of the total 3.64 lakh hectares land under micro irrigation across India).

Gujarat is at 2nd, Andhra Pradesh at 3rd, Maharashtra at 4th, and Uttar Pradesh at 5th position in terms of area under Micro-irrigation.

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Digital Radio to be launched in 2024

Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar has said that NDA government is bringing Digital Radio in 2024 at an annual Akashvani awards function in New Delhi.

Centre government planning to revamp All India Radio officially known as Akashvani by introducing Digital Radio in India by 2024.

India's first Transgender University to come up at Kushinagar district in Uttar Pradesh.

The country's first university for transgender community will be opened in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar district to facilitate its members to study right from class one to PG and even do research and get PhD degree.

The university is being built by Akhil Bhartiya Kinnar Siksha Seva Trust in the Fazilnagar block of the Kushinagar district.

Tamil Nadu tops in good governance Index

Tamil Nadu topped the Good Governance Index launched by the Central Government.

The States and UTs are divided into three groups Big States, North-East and Hill States, and Union Territories.

Tamil Nadu topped in Good Governance Index in the "Big States" category.

Himachal Pradesh was ranked first in the North-East and Hill States.

Puducherry topped in Union Territory.

National Tribal Dance Festival begins in Raipur

National Tribal Dance Festival has begun in Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh, today. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi inaugurated the festival. The inaugural function was presided over by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

The National Tribal Dance Festival is being organized in Chhattisgarh. Over 1300 participants from 25 states & Union Territories of India are participating in this national event.

Virat Kohli named in Wisden cricketers of the decade list

Virat Kohli has been named in the Cricketers of the decade list alongside four others by the Wisden Cricketers' Almanac.

Apart from Kohli, South Africa's Dale Steyn and AB de Villiers, Australia's Steve Smith and women's all-rounder Ellyse Perry also found a place in the list of five cricketers of the decade.

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

India set to cross the 100GW renewable energy capacity mark in 2020 and can make rapid strides towards the ambitious 175GW clean energy target by 2022.

India's installed renewable energy generation capacity touched around 86GW by November-end. Which includes solar, wind, small hydro, biomass, waste to energy and others.

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Government of India to infuse Rs 8,655 crore to Allahabad Bank, UCO Bank, Indian Overseas Bank

The government of India approved the release of Rs 8,655 crore as fresh capital to three public sector banks.

Finance Ministry approved capital infusion of Rs 2,153 crore in Allahabad Bank, Rs 2,142 crore in UCO Bank and Rs 4,360 crore in Indian Overseas Bank.

Indian Railways launched Him Darshan Express

The Indian railways started a seven-coach glass-enclosed vista dome train on the heritage Kalka-Shimla route.

This train will have seven coaches and will start from Kalka railway station at 7 am and reach Shimla at 12.55 pm. In return, this train will leave from Shimla at 3.50 pm and reach Kalka railway station at 9.15 pm.

Govt to provide free WIFI to all villages connected via Bharat Net till March 2020

Union Minister for Electronics and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad announced that free WIFI will be provided to all the villages across the country through Bharat Net by March 2020.

The scheme focuses on empowering the entire village community by providing access to education, health or financial services through the digital medium.

Currently, 48,000 villages connected under the Bharat Net project have Wi-Fi access.

Koneru Humpy wins World Rapid Chess Championships

India's Koneru Humpy defeated China's Lei Tingjie in a tense Armageddon battle to win the Women's World Rapid Chess Championship in Moscow.

After 12 rounds, Humpy accumulated nine points which left her tied with Tingjie. The duo then played an Armageddon game to break the deadlock.

Norway's Magnus Carlsen claimed the men's title in the World Rapid Chess Championships.

UN Declares Malala Yousafzai most famous teenager of decade

The United Nations has declared Malala Yousafzai to be the 'Most famous teenager of the decade.

In part one of its review series, which takes into account events that happened between 2010 and the end of 2013, the UN highlighted the devastating Haiti earthquake in 2010, the beginning of the ongoing Syrian conflict for 2011 and Malala's work in favour of girls' education for the year 2012.

China successfully launches its largest carrier rocket Long March-5

The Long March-5 rocket, China's largest carrier rocket, was successfully launched from Wenchang Space Launch Center in south China's Hainan Province.

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

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It is China's heaviest and most advanced communications satellite in geosynchronous orbit. It is made by China Academy of Space Technology under China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

Odisha govt launches online platform for issuance of certificates

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday launched the online platform for the issuance of income certificate, residence certificate, caste certificate and all miscellaneous certificates without any fees and on the basis of self-certification.

Also, the system of asking for the Solvency certificate by the departments has been done away with. No Department shall ask for Solvency certificate. The provisional selection, applicants shall be called upon to produce certificates like Caste, Resident, etc. for scrutiny and final selection.

Odisha Governor: Ganeshi Lal

Recently Odisha in News

- Odisha Government has decided to set up 45 fast track courts to expedite the trial of cases relating to women and children.
- Chief Minister of Odisha has launched a smart learning phone application 'MadhuApp' for school children.
- National Tribal Craft Mela- 2019 held in Bhubaneswar.

General Bipin Rawat named country's first Chief of Defence Staff

Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat has been appointed as India's 1st Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).

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.

The defence ministry had recently amended the army, air force and navy rules by bringing in a new clause that allows the Chief of Defence Staff to serve up to a maximum age of 65 years.

Finance Minister launches 'eBkay' online auction platform

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched an online auction platform named "eBkay" in New Delhi in order to increase transparency in auctioning of assets attached by banks.

The eBkay platform enables the online auction of the attached assets transparently and cleanly for the improved realization of value by the Public Sector banks.

Russia deploys first Avangard hypersonic missiles

Russian military deployed its first regiment of hypersonic nuclear-capable missiles officially into service.

The new missile system, called Avangard, is equipped with hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV), placed on top of intercontinental ballistic missile, and can hit almost any point in the world.

The direction of this missile can be changed even in the air. It caught the speed of Mach 27, which is equivalent to about 33,000 KMPH, during the test. This is the first of its kind missile in the world.

HDFC Life ties up with Paytm to expand its distribution

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

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The main objective is to enable customers of Paytm to purchase insurance products from HDFC Life. The company increases the insurance penetration in India and to simplify the customer experience right from the purchase to the claim process.

NASA astronaut Christina Koch sets record for longest single spaceflight by woman

NASA Astronaut Christina Koch has created a record for longest single spaceflight by a woman, after surpassing the earlier record of 288 days in space which was previously established by NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson.

Christina Koch still has six weeks to go before returning to Earth from the International Space Station (ISS). When she arrives back on Earth in February 2020, the Expedition 61 Flight Engineer will have spent more than 300 days in space.

India may overtake Germany to become 4th largest economy in 2026

India is expected to become the fourth largest economy by 2026 and the third largest by 2034, according to a report by UK-based Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR).

CEBR stated that India is also set to reach a GDP of \$5 trillion by 2026, 2 years later than the current government target. The report said that Japan, Germany and India will battle for third position over the next 15 years.

S Gurumurthy releases book titled Politics of Opportunism

Noted Economist and Political Analyst S Gurumurthy released a book titled Politics of Opportunism written by R P N Singh in New Delhi.

The book throws light on the subject related to rise of regional parties and Centre-States relation.

H K Joshi appointed as new CMD of Shipping Corporation of India

Smt. H K Joshi has been appointed as the Chairperson & Managing Director (CMD) of Shipping Corporation of India.

Shipping Corporation of India

It is a Government of India Public Sector Enterprise that operates and manages vessels that services both national and international lines.

headquarters: Mumbai

BCCI to honour Krish Srikkanth, Anjum Chopra with CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Awards

Former India captains Krishnamachari Srikkanth and Anjum Chopra are set to be given this year's CK Nayudu Lifetime Award given by the BCCI.

Srikkanth, a member of the 1983 World Cup winning team, represented India between 1981 to 1992. The 42-year-old Anjum is one of India's finest batswomen before Mithali Raj. A left-hander, Anjum played 12 Tests scoring 548 runs.

PAN-Aadhaar linking deadline extended till March 2020

The last date for the mandatory linking of the Permanent Account Number (PAN) with Aadhaar has been extended by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) till March 2020. The earlier deadline was December 31.

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The Supreme Court, in September last year, had declared the Centre's flagship Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid and held that the biometric ID would remain mandatory for the filing of I-T returns and allotment of the PAN.

Aadhaar is issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to a resident of India.

PAN is a 10-digit alphanumeric number allotted by the I-T department to a person, firm or entity.

India State of Forest Report 2019

- The Ministry for Environment, Forests and Climate Change has released the India State of Forest Report 2019.
- This is the 16th edition of India State of Forest Report.
- Total tree and forest cover in the country increased by 5,188 square kilometre in the last two years.
- According to the report, the top three states where forest area has grown
- Karnataka (1025 km)
- Andhra Pradesh (990 km)
- Kerala (823 km)
- The total forest cover of the country is 7,12,249 sq. km (21.67% of the total geographical area)
- Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- In terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area, the top state is Mizoram (85.41%)

Venkaiah Naidu releases book on Arun Jaitley

Venkaiah Naidu released a book on former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on his birth Anniversary, titled- 'The Renaissance Man-The Many Facets of Arun Jaitley in New Delhi.

Indian Railways introduces New Passenger friendly Information System at Anakapalle Station in Vijayawada Division

Indian Railways introduced a new Passenger Information System at Anakapalle Railway Station of Vijayawada Division in South Central Railway.

The Passenger Information system comprises both "At a Glance Display Board" (which gives a glance of the status of various train timings at the Station) and "Coach Guidance Display Board" (which provides the Coach Composition position of a train).

IIT researchers develop material to generate power from water

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati Researchers have developed materials that can produce energy from water on a small scale to help households support the concept of decentralisation of energy sources.

The researcher's nanoscale phenomenon called electro kinetic streaming potential to harvest energy from flowing water on a small scale like water through household water taps.