

CURRENT AFFAIRS - CAPSULE

JANUARY

BANKING

- **Allahabad Bank** has tied up with **SBI Life Insurance** to sell the policies of the insurer from over 3,200 branches.
- The government has **infused** 10,882 crore rupees (**Nearly 11,000 Cr**) in four public sector banks, including **UCO Bank** and Syndicate Bank. It is a part of 28,615 crore rupees capital infusion to be done in about half a dozen public sector lenders.
- **Paytm Payments Bank** has received the green light from RBI to restart opening accounts for its customers. Paytm Payments Bank was banned from adding new accounts on June 20, 2018.
- First-ever three-way merger in Indian Banking with amalgamation of **Vijaya, Dena and Bank of Baroda**.
- **Reserve Bank** allowed a **one-time restructuring** of existing debt up to **Rs 25 crore** for the companies which have defaulted on payment but the loans given to them have continued to be classified as standard assets.
- The RBI released the eighteenth issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR). The FSR reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** on risks to financial stability, as also the resilience of the financial system.
- The number of complaints registered at banking ombudsman offices have seen a **25% increase** in the fiscal year 2018.
- The cabinet has approved the merger of **Vijaya Bank & Dena Bank with Bank of Baroda**. After this merger, Bank of Baroda will become the third biggest public sector bank.
- **Syndicate Bank** and **SBI Life Insurance** signed a **bancassurance** pact aiming to offer a comprehensive financial planning solution to its customers.
- **Cyber frauds** in Indian banking sector **hiked 50% in FY18**: RBI
- **ICICI Bank**, in a first-of-its-kind programme, signed an MoU with **Small BusinessFinCredit India Pvt. Ltd. (SBFC)**, a systemically important NBFC for entrepreneurs, to jointly provide credit worth up to **Rs 1 crore** to MSMEs for a tenure of 15 years.
- Government amalgamated **three Regional Rural Banks**-Punjab Gramin Bank, Malwa Gramin Bank and Sutlej Gramin Bank into a single with effect from January 1, 2019.
- **Bandhan Bank Ltd** is set to acquire mortgage lender **Gruh Finance Ltd**.
- The **Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB)**, Nepal's central monetary authority, wrote to the **RBI** to legalize Indian currency notes of denominations **higher than Rs 100 in Nepal**.
- **RBI** Forms **High level Committee** to Boost Digital Payments. The **five-member committee** will be headed by UIDAI's former Chairman **Nandan Nilekani**.
- **Iran's Pasargad Bank** has received the necessary clearances to open its branch in **Mumbai**. India's **UCO Bank** will open a branch in Iran.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made a few changes in the **Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) 2015**.
- The **RBI**, under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, imposed a penalty of **Rs 3 crore on Citibank** India for non-compliance in criteria for directors of the bank.

- Lender **IDFC Bank** will now be known as **IDFC First Bank**.
- Ministry of finance announced that a **new series of sovereign gold bonds** will be available at **Rs 3,214 per gram**.
- **SBI** along with other banks agreed to provide finance for **Nagpur-Mumbai 'Samruddhi Corridor'** expressway project.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** announced that it will inject 10,000 crore rupees into the system to increase liquidity through open **market operations (OMOs)**. The offers have been instructed to be submitted in electronic format on the RBI Core Banking Solution (**E-Kuber**) system.
- **RBI** slaps **Rs1 crore** fines on **Bank of Maharashtra** for non-compliance of Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines and fraud-classification norms.
- **Exim Bank** Signs Long Term Contract With **Uzbekistan** For Supply of **Uranium** .
- **HDFC Standard Life Insurance** changed its name to **HDFC Life Insurance** following the receipt of relevant approvals from regulatory authorities
- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** organized an Insolvency and Bankruptcy Awareness Programme at **Vadodara, Gujarat**.
- The RBI has initiated two surveys namely, **Industrial Outlook Survey (IOS), and Services and Infrastructure Outlook Survey (SIOS)**.
- **Anushree Jindal** maiden biz venture **Svamaan Financial Services** has announced the beginning of her microfinance venture.
- **YES Bank** ties up with **Maharashtra** to onboard fair **price shops as BCs**.
- **SBI** recommended Unconditional Cash Transfer to farmers to alleviate the agrarian distress instead of **Universal Basic Income (UBI)** scheme in its '**Ecowrap**'.
- **SBI Card and Etihad Guest**, the loyalty programme of **Etihad Airways**, have joined hands to launch a **travel specific Visa credit card** for members and Indian travelers.
- Union Finance Minister Piyush Goyal will meet the CEOs of public sector banks in New Delhi to take stock of banking sector and discuss ways to improve their financial health.
- **IndiaFirst Life Insurance** buys **9%** stake in **CSC e-Governance Services**. This stake purchase demonstrates bringing personal risk protection to all sections of the society in the four year association with Common Services Centre (CSC).
- The central banks of the **UAE** and **Saudi Arabia** have launched a common digital currency called "**Aber**".
- India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** is set to swap part of its loans into a stake of at least **15 per cent in Jet Airways**.

ECONOMY

- **CII** Forecasts India's Economy to Grow **7.5%** in 2019.
- India cuts tax on **palm oil** imports from **ASEAN nations**, duty on crude palm oil was lowered to **40% from 44%** while a tax on the refined variety was cut to **50% from 54%**.
- Govt. may impose **anti-dumping duty** on **Chinese synthetic rubber** recommended duty ranges between **USD 0.078 - 7.31** per kg.
- **HDFC MF** Surpasses ICICI Prudential MF to Become **Largest AMC in India** with an assets of Rs 3.35 lakh crore.
- **SEBI** allows **custodial services** in commodity market.
- **Bancassurance** pact was signed between **Syndicate Bank** and **SBI Life**.
- India exempts rupee payments for **National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)** from hefty taxes.
- **United Bank of India, Srei Equipment Finance** enter pact for MSME sector finance.
- Government Revises Interest Rate on **Time Deposit Small Savings Scheme** at

- the rate of **7%** in the quarter ending March 31, 2019.
- Government has launched a **Yarn Bank Scheme** under **PowerTexIndia**, it provides Interest free Fund up to **Rs. 2 crore** to the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)/Consortium formed by **powerloom weavers**.
 - **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** Signs MoU with **Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER)** For **Boosting Communication**.
 - A MoU was signed between the **Indian Army** and **Punjab National Bank** on the Defence Salary Package for free '**RAKSHAK PLUS**' Scheme.
 - **SEBI** constitutes **Research Advisory Committee** headed by **Shankar De**.
 - **Bureau of Energy Efficiency** and **CPWD** signed MoU for 5 years on **promoting energy efficiency in buildings**.
 - **GST registration threshold** limit increased to **Rs.40 lakh from Rs.20 lakh**
 - Govt eyes about **\$1 bn** from **Air India** sale.
 - "**Womaniya on GeM**" launched by Government e Marketplace [GeM] under Commerce Ministry to empower women entrepreneurs.
 - Government allocated additional **Rs.6084 crore** for **MGNREGA** taking the total allocation to **Rs 61,084 crores**.
 - **7 members Group of Ministers (GoM)** headed by **Nitin Patel** were constituted for **boosting the Real Estate Sector** under the GST regime.
 - India to buy nearly **\$5 billion** of **oil and natural gas** from the United States every year and **\$18 billion** worth of **defence equipment** is under implementation.
 - **SudhirMungantiwar**, Finance Minister of Maharashtra is the Convener of the **GoM to look at issues related to Lottery**. Under GST, state-organized lottery falls under the 12% tax slab while state-authorized lottery attracts 28% tax.
 - **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** issued a consultation paper to allow trading in **Commodity-index-based futures**.
 - **SEBI** allowed mutual fund schemes to write **call options** only under a covered call strategy for constituent stocks of **Nifty 50 and Sensex indices**.
 - **BHEL and Libcoin** are in dialogue to build **1st lithium ion battery plant** with capacity of **1GWh** in India and its capacity will be scaled up to 30GWh in due course.
 - The **Government of India** and **JICA** sign Loan Agreements for the Construction of **Chennai Peripheral Ring Road for JPY 40.074 billion** and Program for **Japan-India Cooperative Actions towards Sustainable Development Goals** in India for **JPY 15.000 billion**
 - **Pakistan International Airlines (PIA)** banned entertainmenton flights to **Jeddah and Medina** Instead it will play only **Quran verses and naat** for them. It Welcome passengers on board with the **QaseedaBurda Sharif**.
 - **IBBI** has set up a **11-member** working group headed by **UK Sinha** to go into the concept of '**Group Insolvency**' and suggest a suitable framework. It has to submit a report within **two months**.
 - **CCI** approved 49% acquisition of the shares by **Amazon** and 51% of the shares by **Witzigin Aditya Birla's Retail store**.
 - India's Growth to Accelerate From **7.4% to 7.6%** in FY20: UN Report.
 - creation of the **National Bench** of the **Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)**. It presided over by its **President** and shall consist of **one Technical Member (Centre)** and **one Technical Member (State)**.
 - **NIDCL** terminates **IL & FS'** contract for **Zojila tunnel** Project.
 - I&B Ministry to increase **advertisement rates** by **11% to private TV channels**.
 - **NCDEX, IRMA** sign MoU to handhold **farmer producer organizations (FPOs)**.
 - **IRDAI** sets panel headed by **Praveen Kutumbeto** to identify **systematically important**

insurers (SIIs)

- **India** to grow at **7-7.5%** over next few years: **PM's Economic Advisory Council** headed by NITI Aayog Member **Bibek Debroy**
- **GST** on **Haj** reduced from **18% to 5%** it will significantly lower the air fare thus **saving Haj pilgrims 113 crore Rupees** this year.
- **India, China** signs protocol for exports of Indian **tobacco leaves** to China.
- Foreign direct investment (**FDI**) during the previous fiscal grew **18 per cent to Rs 28.25 lakh crore.**
- **SEBI** proposed relaxed norms for **REITs, InvITs** to increase access to investors, the prescribed lot for the purpose of trading of units on the stock exchange for **REITs is Rs. 1 lakh** whereas for **InvIT is Rs 5 lakh.**

APPOINTMENTS

- **V K Yadav** Assumes Charge of New Railway Board Chairman
- **Jair Bolsonaro** Takes Oath As New President of Brazil
- **Justice TBN Radhakrishnan** sworn in as First Chief Justice of Telangana High Court
- Axis Bank appoints **Amitabh Chaudhry** as MD & CEO
- Govt appoints **Hemant Bhargava** interim chairman of LIC
- Pentagon comptroller **David Norquist** named acting deputy defence secretary of United States
- **Arunima Sinha** Becomes World's 1st Female Amputee To Scale Antarctica's Highest Peak
- **Saurabh Kumar** appointed as Chairman Of Ordnance Factory Board
- **Kumar Rajesh Chandra** Appointed Director-General of SSB
- **Alok Verma** Reinstated As CBI Chief By Supreme Court
- **Gita Gopinath** appointed IMF Chief Economist
- **Pranav R Mehta** Becomes 1st Indian to Head Global Solar Council
- **Vikram Misri** takes charge as new Indian ambassador to China.
- **Apsara Reddy** Appointed Congress's First Transgender Officebearer.
- Venezuela President **Maduro** sworn in for second term
- **Lt Gen J S Nain** takes over as Commander of Army's Rising Star Corps
- **Tulsi Gabbard**, first Hindu member in US Congress, to run for President in 2020.
- TCS Appoints **Daniel Callahan** As Independent Director
- Former chief statistician **TCA Anant** assumes charge as UPSC member.
- Axis appoints HDFC Bank veteran **Deepak Maheshwari** as Chief Credit Officer
- **Manu Sawhney** Appointed New ICC CEO
- President Ram Nath Kovind approved the elevation of **Justice Sanjiv Khanna** and **Justice Dinesh Maheshwari** to the Supreme Court.
- **Sanjay Jain** appointed as Additional Solicitor General in Supreme court
- **Justice Asif Saeed Khosa**, known for adding lyrical flair in his judgments, sworn in as the Chief Justice of Pakistan in a ceremony at Islamabad.
- **Prabhat Singh** Appointed DG In NHRC
- Sweden's Prime Minister **Stefan Lofven** wins second term.
- **Andry Rajoelina** Sworn In As Madagascar President
- **Priyanka Gandhi** appointed AICC general secretary for UP East.
- Navy Chief Admiral **Sunil Lanba** Commissioned New Naval Air Base 'INS Kohassa'
- **Ravneet Gill** To Replace Rana Kapoor as Yes Bank MD and CEO
- **Piyush Goyal** Named Interim Finance Minister .

- **Sultan Abdullah** Elected New Malaysian King
- IndiGo appoints **Ronojoy Dutta** as new CEO
- **Usha Ananthasubramanian** Becomes 1st Woman IBA Chief
- Pakistan Appoints Its First Ever Female Hindu Civil Judge **Suman Kumari**.
- **Poonam Khetrapal Singh** Re-appointed Regional Director Of WHO South-East Asia.
- **Dilip Sadarangani** Appointed As Chairman Of Federal Bank
- **LT Gen Rajeev Chopra** Takes Over as Director General of NCC

PERSONS IN NEWS

- **Ilhan Omar** becomes first to wear hijab in US Congress.
- Congresswoman overcomes 181-year headwear ban while **Rashida Tlaib** takes oath on Qur'an.
- **Dr. Jitendra Nagpal** to head HRD Ministry constituted committee for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) students to investigate suicide incidents.
- **Malaysia's King Muhammad V** Becomes 1st Monarch To Resign Before Completing Tenure
- **Jim Yong Kim** resigns as World Bank president
- The 2019 Oscars will be held without a host for the first time in 30 years.
- **Justice U.U. Lalit** recuses himself, Ayodhya SC Bench to fix time of hearings on Jan. 29
- **President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF)** Named As **Birendra Prasad Baishya** Chef de Mission for Tokyo Olympics.
- **Harendra Singh** Discontinued as Indian Men's Hockey Team Coach
- **Ashok Chawla** resigned as chairman of the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) with immediate effect in light of recent legal developments.
- **Sushil Modi** to head GoM on GST revenue shortfall faced by shortfall faced by states
- **Ananth Narayanan** Steps Down As Mynta-Jabong CEO
- **Cherukuri Raghavendra Babu** to head the Madras HC Committee To Weed Out Invasive Plant Species.
- **Stephen Constantine** resign as coach of Indian football team
- **Vinesh Phogat** Becomes First Indian Athlete to be Nominated for Laureus World Sports Awards.
- **Rani** to lead Indian women's hockey team for Spain tour
- **Aparnakumar** First female IPS to reach the south pole
- ICC suspends **Ambati Rayudu** from bowling in international cricket
- **Narendra Modi** interacts with 2,000 students in Parikshapecharcha 2.0 held in New Delhi

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- **Manoj Dash** honoured with **Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja National Award**.
- **Wahengbam Lamnganba Singh** from Manipur to receive **National Bravery Award**
- **Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards** announced
- The **76th Annual Golden Globe Awards** were announced at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in California, the USA.
- This year's event was hosted by actors **Andy Samberg** and **Sandra Oh**, who took over from 2018 host, comedian Seth Meyers.
- Netflix's black and white intimate drama Roma bagged both **Best Director and Best Foreign Language Film**
- Bradley Cooper's **A Star is Born** was largely shut out, barring a Best Original Song trophy.
- **Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award:** Oprah Winfrey

- IIT Professor awarded with the **National Geospatial Award for Excellence**
- M Venkaiah Naidu conferred textiles awards in New Delhi and presented commemorative stamps on GI registered handicrafts.
- Journalist **DinuRandive** conferred with lifetime achievement award
- **Adi Godrej** conferred The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) lifetime award
- **ViratKohli and Ravi Shastri** received honorary membership of Sydney Cricket Ground
- **NamitaGokhale** wins Sushila Devi Literature Award.
- President Ram NathKovind conferred the honorary rank of General of the Indian Army on **Purna Chandra Thapa**, the Chief of the Army Staff of Nepalese Army.
- **Major Aditya Kumar and Rifleman Aurangzeb** to get Shaurya Chakra gallantry award.
- Detained Chinese lawyer **Yu Wensheng** wins **Franco-German human rights award.**
- **Hindu Literary Prize 2018** Winner list announced at **The Hindu Lit for Life 2019**
- **YoheiSasakawa** receives **Gandhi Peace Prize for 2018**
- India born, **Dr. Rattan Lal** honoured with **2019 Japan Prize** for his contributions in “Biological Production, Ecology”
- Chief Minister of Haryana **ShriManoharLalKhattar** announces “**Shaurya Award**” to students
- MP **Anurag Thakur** Honoured With **SansadRatna Award**
- Indian-American **Gurinder Singh Khalsa** Presented With **Rosa Parks Trailblazer Award.**
- Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** Presented **ChhatraVishwakarma Awards and SAGY Awards.**
- **RanjaniMurali** Wins ‘**Woman’s Voice Award**’ At AKLF 2019
- **Bharat Ratna CNR Rao** Chosen For **International Prize For Materials Research**
- Indian expats From UAE Win Prestigious **PravasiBharatiyaSamman Award**
- Government institutes **Subhash Chandra Bose AapdaPrabandhanPuraskar**
- **Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)** received best Miniratna PSU in strategic performance financial category award.
- **Padma Awards 2018** announced
- The list comprises 3 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 73 Padma Shri Awards.
- 14 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 16 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 3 Posthumous awardees.

PADMA VIBHUSHAN

S. No	Name	Field	State
1.	Shri Illaiyaraja	Art-Music	Tamil Nadu
2.	ShriGhulam Mustafa Khan	Art-Music	Maharashtra
3.	Shri Parameswaran Parameswaran	Literature and Education	Kerala

PADMA BHUSHAN

S. No	Name	Field	State
1.	ShriPankajAdvani	Sports- Billiards/Snooker	Karnataka
2.	ShriPhilipose Mar Chrysostom	Others-Spiritualism	Kerala
3.	ShriMahendra Singh Dhoni	Sports-Cricket	Jharkhand
4.	Shri Alexander Kadakin (Foreigner/Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Russia
5.	ShriRamachandranNagaswamy	Others-Archaeology	Tamil Nadu
6.	ShriVedPrakash Nanda (OCI)	Literature and Education	USA
7.	ShriLaxmanPai	Art-Painting	Goa
8.	ShriArvind Parikh	Art-Music	Maharashtra
9.	Ms. ShardaSinha	Art-Music	Bihar

- The **2017 World Weightlifting Champion SaikhomMirabaiChanu** and **former Asian Games gold medallist tennis player SomdevDevvarman** have been conferred with the Padma Shri. The awards are announced on the eve of the Republic Day every year

- India Bags **The Award of Excellence for 'Best in Show' At NYTTS 2019**

INTERNATIONAL

- **France** to introduce GAFSA tax on global internet, technology firms – Google, Amazon, Facebook and Apple.
- **India** and **Pakistan** exchanged for the 28th consecutive year a list of their nuclear installations under a bilateral agreement that prohibits them from attacking each other's atomic facilities.
- **Trump** Signs **Asia Reassurance Initiative Act** Into Law.
- **Pakistan** abolishes **visa on arrival for Afghans**.
- **Five** nations assume charge as **Non- permanent members of UN Security Council**- Belgium, Dominican Republic, Germany, Indonesia and South Africa.
- Pakistan declares **PanjTirath** Hindu religious site as national heritage.
- New **Nepal** law requires **children to deposit money in parents' bank account**.
- The **United Nations** called for an investigation into the election in **Bangladesh** in which Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** won a third straight term amid accusations of violence and voting irregularities.
- Under new law, **Saudi** women to be notified of divorce via **text message**.
- **Iran** approves **anti-money laundering bill** to ease foreign trade.
- **Egypt** opens West Asia's largest cathedral- **Cathedral of Nativity** in Cairo.
- **China** passes law to make Islam 'compatible with socialism'.
- **North Korea's Kim Jong Un** Visits Beijing Amid US-China Trade Talks.
- **Nicolás Maduro** has been sworn in for a second term as **Venezuela's** president.
- **Guatemala** unilaterally terminate the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) agreement.
- Bill to terminate **Pakistan** designation as major non-NATO ally introduced in US Congress.

- Macedonian parliament agrees to change country's name to Republic of **North Macedonia**.
- The second **India-Myanmar** bilateral Army exercise 'IMBEX 2018-19' commenced at Chandimandir military station.
- Brexit vote: British Parliament rejects Theresa May's Brexit deal, leaving withdrawal from E.U.
- **Palestine** has taken over chairmanship of the UN's Group of 77, a bloc of mainly developing nations, from **Egypt** for **2019**.
- The World Economic Forum released its 14th edition of annual Global Risk Report 2019 ahead of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in **Davos**.
- **Palestine** has taken over the chairmanship of G77 (Group of 77) from Egypt.
- The **United States** will begin the process of the withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty on February 2, 2019.
- France activates emergency plan for no-deal Brexit.
- **India** and **Mongolia** sign pact in art and culture.
- **Nepal's** Central Bank Announced ban of Indian Notes Above Rs 100.
- India signed 11 MoUs worth **\$9.5 million** with Afghanistan.
- **Facebook** Backs University Artificial Intelligence(AI) Ethics Institute With **\$7.5 Million**.
- Venezuela's **Maduro** Breaks Off Diplomatic Ties With US.
- **WHO** in collaboration with **International Labour Organisation(ILO)** to form a global committee to work and implement the fundamental changes in health at work.
- South Africa President **Cyril Ramaphosa** arrived in India. Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa is the Chief Guest at the 70th Indian Republic Day Parade.
- **Angola** lifts ban on homosexuality.
- Southern Philippines backs **Muslim self-rule in landslide result**.
- India gifts 30 ambulances, 6 buses to **Nepal** on Republic Day.
- Sugarcane juice declared 'national drink' of **Pakistan** after Twitter poll.
- India, China sign protocol for **export of Indian tobacco to Chinese market**.
- Nepal, India to set up energy banking system **to utilise surplus electricity**.
- U.S. and Taliban Agree in **Principle to Peace Framework**.
- Pakistan's Indus Commissioner **Syed Mohammad Mehar Ali Shah** and Indian Indus Commissioner **Pradeep Kumar Saxena** along with their respective advisers will undertake this tour in Chenab basin of Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Italy, UN**, launch Africa Centre for Climate and Sustainable Development.
- **UK Parliament approves Brexit amendment** on replacing Irish backstop.
- Capacity Augmentation to Successfully Deliver the **G20** Presidency. **India will preside and host the G20, or Group of 20 nations meeting in 2022**. G20 provides a unique opportunity for India to transform from rule-taker to rule-maker.

NATIONAL

- 100% households electrified in 25 states under **Saubhagya Yojana**.
- Lok Sabha passes **Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill**.
- **Mauritius** PM Pravind Kumar Jugnauth arrived in New Delhi.
- MHA tweaks travel norms: Indians over 65, under 15 can use Aadhaar to visit Nepal, Bhutan.
- Government extends **Credit Linked Subsidiary Scheme (CLSS)** for Middle Income Group (MIG) housing loans till March **2020**.
- Norway PM **Erna Solberg** during her three-day visit delivered the inaugural address at the **Raisina Dialogue** and address **India-Norway** Business Summit.
- Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan **Taro Kono** is on a 3-day visit to **India**.

- Australian Foreign Minister **Ms Payne** visits India to widen Indo-Pacific partnership.
- Govt can check **online food, grocery delivery items any time**: FSSAI
- Government sets up export promotion cell for MSMEs to create sustainable ecosystem.
- **Capacity Building Programme for Elected Women Representatives (EWRs)** of Panchayati Raj Institutions across 18 states.
- Panel headed by IIT-Hyderabad Chairman BVR Mohan Reddy suggested AICTE not to allow new Engineering colleges from **2020**.
- **Aadhaar amendment bill** introduced in Lok Sabha.
- Parliament Passes **Right Of Children To Free And Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018**.
- Rajya Sabha Passes **National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill**.
- The Supreme Court **lifted a stay** on the proceedings of a class-action suit filed by the central government against **the maker of Maggi noodles** in the apex consumer court.
- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, Launched **100% Digital Swachh Survekshan 2019** in New Delhi.
- PM inaugurated **Integrated Check Post** at Moreh, **Dolaithabi Barrage Project** over Irilriver, the **FCI Food Storage Godown** at Sawombung, and projects related to water supply and tourism at Imphal.
- PM Narendra Modi dedicated **400 kV Double Circuit Silchar-Imphal Line** to the nation.
- **4677 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)** Kendras functional in 35 States/UTs of the country by end of year 2018.
- **All India Radio** to share the news with private FM broadcasters.
- Lok Sabha passes **Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill**; proposed legislation removes leprosy as ground for divorce.
- **Citizenship Amendment Bill 2019 Passed** in Lok Sabha to minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afganistan.
- **Interim Budget** To Be Presented on 1 February.
- signing of TOR to provide tax assistance to Swaziland
- Centre launches 5-yr Plan called **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** to Combat Pollution In 102 cities.
- 6 States Sign Agreement For **Renukaji Multipurpose Dam Project**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin of **Rs. 350** to mark the birth anniversary celebrations of **Guru Gobind Singh jee**.
- India to construct **44 'strategically important' roads along China border**.
- Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the second phase of **Married Accommodation Project (MAP)** consisting of 868 dwelling units for troops of ANC at Brichgunj Military Station in Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- The government has made an additional allocation of over Rs 6,000 crore to rural employment scheme MGNREGA, taking the total allocation to Rs 61,084 crores, which is highest ever in a financial year.
- Modi launched a slew of Central government projects worth over **Rs.1,550 crore in Balangir district of Odisha** .
- Modi inaugurated the project "**Development of Spiritua Circuit: Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple – Aranmula-Sabarimala**" at the cost of Rs. 92.22 crores under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Tourism Ministry in Kerala. Ministry of tourism has sanctioned **7 projects** in Kerala under the **Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD schemes** for an approximate amount of Rs 550 crores.

- The Centre has ordered moving a strategic Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) command from its current base in **Chandigarh to the border of Leh** in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Modi launches **National Museum of Indian Cinema in Mumbai.**
- IIT-H Launches Full-Fledged **B.Tech in Artificial Intelligence.**
- Prime Minister Modi visited and laid foundation stone for the **first ever medical college** at a cost of 189 crore in **Sayli village, Silvassa in Dadra & Nagar Haveli**
- Nitin Gadkari inaugurated first inter-state 1210-meter span-bridge over **Ravi river in Keerian Gandial in Kathua district, Jammu and Kashmir.**
- Modi launches **Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana** in Varanasi.
- Central Government launched **four new schemes** to promote young scientists and researchers in India - Teacher Associateship for Research Excellence (TARE), Overseas Visiting Doctoral Fellowship, Distinguished Investigator Award, Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research (AWSAR)
- The Centre decided **to renovate and develop around 400 abandoned airstrips** across the country to strengthen air-connectivity, and **Jharkhand is the first state** to develop airstrip in Dhalbhumgarh .
- Ministry of Defence had launched a mobile app **'RDP India 2019'** on the Republic Day, with the intent of making available the highlights of the Republic Day event.
- Union minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Atul Setu bridge over Mandovi river in Goa.
- India, Vietnam Release **First-Ever Commemorative postage stamps** to mark the long-term friendly bilateral relationships. The two sets of stamps released carry picture of **Sanchi Stupa and Thien Mu Pagoda.**
- Train 18 named as **Vande Bharat Express**
- SC reconstitute **5 member committee to hear Ayodhya land dispute**
- India, Seychelles sign revised agreement over military infrastructure.
- Union Civil Aviation minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated **India's 1st Geographical Indication store at Goa International Airport** in Dabolim.
- The Western Railway has provided segways, the two-wheeled, self-balancing and battery-powered electric vehicles, to the Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel deployed at major railway stations in Mumbai
- MHRD Prakash Javedkar signed an agreement with Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development for Participation in International Students Association (PISA) 2021.

CABINET APPROVALS

- **High Level Committee (HLC)** for implementation of Assam Accord.
- India and **Morocco on Cooperation in the area of Cyber Security.**
- Ex post facto approval to India's Approach **for COP 24, Katowice, Poland (2-15 December 2018).**
- inclusion of merchant exporters under **Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES)** for Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit.
- MoC between India, **Japan in the field of environmental cooperation**
- MoU between India, **US on scientific and technical cooperation in earth sciences.**
- Revised model MoU between India and foreign **Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs)** for **exchange of information.**
- MoU between India, **France in the field of energy efficiency, energy conservation.**
- Amendment of **the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act, 1951.**
- MoC between India, **Japan for Cooperation in the postal field.**
- MoU between India, **Tajikistan on cooperation on peaceful uses of space technology for development.**

- MoU between India, **Russia on Joint Activities under human spaceflight programme.**
- Agreement between India, **Uzbekistan on Cooperation in exploration and uses of outer space .**
- MoU between India, **Zimbabwe for cooperation in the field of geology, mining and mineral resources.**
- MoU between India, **Morocco for cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.**
- MoU between India, **Armenia on joint issue of postage stamp.**
- MoC between India, **Japan in the field of Healthcare and Wellness.**
- Agreement between India, **Algeria on Cooperation in the field of Space Sciences, Technologies and Applications.**
- MoC between India and **Japan in the field of Food Processing Industry,**
- MoU between **India and Kuwait for cooperation on the Recruitment of Domestic Workers**
- Amendment to the 'Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC Member Countries' to incorporate 'Standby Swap' amounting to USD 400 million operated within the overall size of the facility
- Creation of the National Bench of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT).
- Implementation of **Shahpurkandi Dam (National Project) on river Ravi in Punjab.**
- **10 pc quota** for economically weaker sections in general category.
- Strategic sale of Government's existing 52.63% of total paid-up equity shareholding in REC to Power Finance Corporation.
- **Recapitalization of Export-Import Bank of India.**
- Expenditure sanction for **Integrated E-filing and Centralized Processing Centre 2.0 Project.**
- Signing of Terms of Reference (TOR) governing the engagement of the designated Indian Expert to **provide tax assistance to Swaziland** (now known as **Eswatini**) under the Tax Inspectors Without Borders Programme between India and Eswatini.
- **Bilateral swap arrangement between India, Japan.**
- Establishment of **three new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** -two will be set up in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba and Pulwama districts, the third AIIMS will be set up in Rajkot, Gujarat.
- MoU on **Maritime issues between India and Denmark.**
- MoU between India, **Japan on development of Advanced Model Single Window**
- MoU between India, **France on technical bilateral cooperation in the field of new and renewable energy**

STATES

- **'Ujjwala Sanitary Napkins'** initiative in Odisha.
- Government has approved the additional assistance of **1,146 crore rupees to Tamil Nadu** from **National Disaster Response Fund**, which was affected by **cyclone - Gaja.**
- Madhya Pradesh Government to create an **Adhyatmik Vibhag** (Spiritual department).
- Gujarat becomes first state to implement **10 per cent quota for economically weaker sections.**
- **Madhya Pradesh** had become the first state in the country to create **Happiness Department.**
- **Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot** has approved the proposal for amendments made in **Rules-12 and Rule-17** of the **Rajasthan Judicial Service Rules, 2010.**

- Andhra Pradesh gets separate High Court from January 1.
- CM Naveen Patnaik launches Rs 10,180-crore **Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA)** scheme.
- Mamatha Banerjee announces **KrishakBandhu** scheme for farmers.
- UP govt to impose **gaukalyancess** to protect stray cattle.
- **Cyclone Pabuk** approaches Andaman and Nicobar Islands, **yellow alert** sounded.
- NGT imposed Rs 100 crore fine on **Meghalaya** govt for failing to curb **illegal mining**.
- 11 projects to revive **mythical Saraswati river** approved by Haryana government
- Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu unveils schemes for marginalized Brahmins.
- Kerala to bring ordinance against damage of private property during hartals.
- **Sikkim** says it will become first state to roll out **Universal Basic Income**.
- **West Bengal** quits **Ayushman Bharat scheme- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna** due to misrepresentation on official communication.
- **Chattisgarh** withdraws general consent accorded to the CBI to probe cases in the state
- Sikkim CM Launched **'One Family, One Job'** Scheme. The scheme envisages providing jobs to a member of every family who does not have a government job.
- AP CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu has announced the doubling of their monthly **pension to ₹2,000** as festival gift.
- **Puducherry** government has imposed a ban on the **sale and use of plastic products in the Union Territory from March 1**.
- **Gujarat** becomes 1st state to implement **10% quota to EWS (Economically Weaker sections)**.
- **Jai Kisan Rin Mukti Yojana** scheme launched in Madhya Pradesh.
- Tripura Launches Project For Sustainable Catchment Forest Management.
- Two commemorative coins in the denomination of **Rs 100 and Rs 5** were released to mark the 102nd birth anniversary of late Tamil Nadu chief minister **M.G Ramachandran**.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced extension of free health services under **Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana**.
- All-woman political party called **National Women's party** launched in Maharashtra. The party has been founded by **Dr Swetha Shetty**.
- Delhi HC approved to release Movie **'72 Hours – Martyr Who Never Died'** based on **Jaswant Sing Rawat** who was posthumously awarded the MahaVir Chakra for gallantry during 1962 war.
- **Andhra Pradesh government decided to give only five per cent** reservation to the economically weaker sections (EWS) under the Centre's 10 per cent quota, setting **aside the rest to the upper caste Kapus in its capital city Amaravati**.
- Tamilnadu bull taming **Jallikattu** event enters world record for the maximum number of bulls released into the sport arena.
- Telangana to set up armed anti-poaching tiger protection force soon.
- Maharashtra bans sale of tobacco at shops selling FMCG items.
- Second edition of Tamil Nadu Global Investor Meet 2019 held in Chennai.
- Kerala government launches **Pravasi dividend pension scheme**.
- Madhya Pradesh government launches **Yuva Swabhiman scheme**.
- Punjab CM Launches Benefits under **Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana**.
- Uttarakhand's first Tulip garden in **Pithoragarh**.
- 10 lakh smart meters to be installed in Haryana.
- Andhra government to provide 100 units free power to MBCs.

- CM launches infrastructure projects worth Rs 1100 cr in Ganjam district of Odisha.
- Nagaland CM inaugurates states 1st Astro Turf Football pitch.
- Odisha CM announces **JibanSampark** Project for the welfare of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups at the annual Adivasi Mela-2019. The JibanSampark Project undertaken in association with UNICEF aims to generate awareness among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) in Odisha on various development and welfare initiatives of State Government, especially on women and child welfare
- Maharashtra Govt launches special scheme to curb infant deaths.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- **Stanford University** and **Google** revealed that **artificial intelligence (AI)** tool **CycleGAN** was hiding information to cheat on another task it was assigned to do later.
- **NASA's New Horizons spacecraft** has completed its epic **flyby** of the most distant object ever explored, the recently-unveiled fossil from the beginning of the solar system, **Ultima Thule**.
- **NASA's OSIRIS-REx** spacecraft **broke a record** after successfully entering into orbit around the asteroid **Bennu**.
- Researchers developed **Brain pacemaker** to treat epilepsy, Parkinson's **WAND**, short for "**wireless artifact-free neuromodulation device**", can deliver electrical stimulation if it detects something amiss in the brain's electrical activity.
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, a new platform named **SamwadwithStudents** (SwS) was launched in **Bengaluru**.
- China National Space Administration's (CNSA) robotic probe, **Chang'e 4** has become the first ever to land on face of the **Moon not seen from the Earth**.
- The **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** commissioned its liquefied natural gas (**LNG**) import terminal at **Ennore** in Tamil Nadu.
- Govt Allocates **Rs 10,900 Cr** for Development of **40 Satellite** Launch Vehicles Next 4 years.
- China Lunar rover **Yutu-2 or Jade Rabbit-2** of the Chang'e-4 spacecraft made the first-ever soft landing on the far side of the moon.
- **Human Resource Development (HRD)** has introduced a **70-point** grading index to assess the quality of school education offered by states.
- The North Central Railway, (NCR) launched a mobile application the '**Rail KumbhSeva Mobile App**' to help navigate the attendees of the KumbhMela in **Prayagraj** city.
- '**Space fuel**', made by crystallizing CO₂, to curb greenhouse gases created by **IIT Madras** scientists.
- First manned mission to space by December 2021, women astronauts to be part of the crew: ISRO chief K Sivan, the Gaganyaan project, which will send a three-member crew to space.
- Scientists have discovered new planet using NASA Telescope **K2-288Bb**, which is twice the size of Earth.
- **SpaceX Falcon 9** rocket launches **Ten Iridium** communications satellites.
- **Chennai** Traffic Police introduced a **road safety robot named ROADEO**, to help in traffic management and assist citizens.

- The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** along with **Doordarshan (DD)**, PrasarBharati launched two science communication initiatives, **DD Science** and **India Science**.
- **SpaceX-CRS-16 Dragon** craft departed from the International Space Station launched by NASA. The **SpaceX-CRS-16** Dragon transported more than **2,500 kilograms (5,600 pounds)** of cargo to the space station and orbited Earth for five weeks.
- **JapanAerospace Exploration Agency** has launched Tokyo-based startup **Star-ALE's mini-satellite** aimed to deliver the **world's first artificial meteor shower**.
- The **Small Woodbrown butterfly** species from Bakhim in Khanchendzonga National Park after a span of 120 long years was discovered in Sikkim.
- **Israel, US** successfully test ballistic missile interceptors. It is intended to serve as Israel's highest-altitude missile interception system.
- India's **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C44)** successfully injected **Microsat-R** and **Kalamsat-V2** from the First Launch Pad at SatishDhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota.
- **Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba** commissioned new Naval Air Base '**INS KOHASSA**' at **Diglipur, Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- Online inter-state trade through the e-NAM portal started. It was initiated with the first trade of 8.46 quintal of groundnut between a farmer from **GadwalMandi** in Telangana and a trader from **Kurnool** in Andhra Pradesh.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully test fired Long Range Surface to Air Missile (**LR-SAM**) from naval warship **INS Chennai**.
- **United Kingdom (UK)** government has made announced a research project to study Nitrogen pollution in **India and South Asia**
- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar** developed an android app '**ROSHINI**' for the visually impaired people to identify the denomination of the currency note.
- Neonatal sepsis gained importance as bugs of this infection haunted **South-Asia**, doctors from **AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences)** stated.
- India tested the new generation anti-radiation missile(**NGRAM**) which would destroy all the surveillance and radar systems.The missile is launched from **Balasore**.
- Earth's oldest rock found in Moon Sample brought 48 years ago, Scientists discovered the **oldest Earth rock** on the **Moon**,it is found from the lunar sample bought by the **Apollo 14 astronauts**.
- The new initiative in sync with the **Digital India campaign** of the Government, Ministry of Defence had launched a mobile app '**RDP India 2019**'.
- Power Minister RK Singh lays the foundation stone of Regional testing laboratory of CPRI
- Scientist found a '**Superbug**',- first detected in **New Delhi** over a decade back — in one of the last "**pristine**" places on Earth that is some **12,870** km away and coded as **blaNDM-1**(called **New Delhi Metallo-beta-lactamase-1**).

SEMINARS AND MEETINGS

Seminars and Meetings	Place	Theme
Indian Science Congress (ISC 2019)	Jalandhar(Punjab)	Future India-Science and Technology
Indus Food Meet	Greater Noida	
4 th Edition of Raisina Dialogue	New Delhi	A World Reorder: New Geometries; Fluid Partnerships; Uncertain Outcomes
Eastern Economic Forum	Vladivostok	
29th Indian Paint Conference - 2019	Agra	Paints PeCharcha - NayeAayaam
National Youth Parliament Festival 2019'	New Delhi	Be the Voice of New India and Find solutions and contribute to policy
3-day 6th women of India organic festival	Chandigarh	
2nd International Sweet Festival 4th International Kite Festival	Hyderabad	Educate girl child and she will save the world
9th International Micro Irrigation Conference	Aurangabad	Micro Irrigation and Modern Agriculture
IMBEX 2018-19	Chandimandir, Chandigarh	
Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit 2019	Gandhi Nagar, Gujarath	Youth Connect 2019: Shaping a New India- The Story of Billion Dreams
7th ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers meeting	Ha Long City, Vietnam	
PravasiBhartiya Divas	Varanasi	Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India
Arab Economic and Social Development Summit	Beirut	
World Economic Forum (WEF)	Switzerland	Globalization 4.0: Shaping a Global Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution'
2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019	GOA	
3rd Stock Taking Conference on Tiger Conservation	New Delhi	

PLACES IN NEWS

- **Uttar Pradesh** University to set up first goat fertility lab in the state.
- Storm Usman: Dozens killed as heavy rains and landslides hit **Philippines**.
- **Veer Savarkar International Airport** in Port Blair declared as an authorized Immigration Check post.
- 71st anniversary of **Myanmar's** independence ceremony celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw.
- 100 ft tall National Flag at Secunderabad Railway Station.
- **Kallakurichi** is 33rd district of Tamil nadu.
- Country's longest single lane steel cable bridge opened in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The tallest bronze statue (33 ft.) of Swami Vivekanand built at the cost of Rs 17 crore be unveiled in Ranchi, Jharkhand by Chief Minister **Raghubar Das**.

- India's largest startup ecosystem, measuring 1.8 lakh sqft, inaugurated in **Kerala**.
- Antarctica ice melts 6 times faster than 40 years ago.
- **Bengaluru** is world's most dynamic city: JLL Index.
- 2nd World Orange Festival Begins In **Nagpur**.
- India signed long term contract with **Uzbekistan** for supply of Uranium.
- **Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)** named as World Capital of Architecture for 2020.
- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Dillo Bridge over Chipu River in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **Arunachal Pradesh** government declared Pakke Hornbill Fest as 'state festival'.
- Three day Flamingo festival was celebrated in Pulicat Lake, Andhra Pradesh.
- RPF women squad "JOYTI BAHINI" launched in **Guwahati**.
- **Shanghai** opens world's longest 3D-printed concrete bridge.
- Assam Rifles creates history by showcasing "Nari Shakti" at parade.
- PM Modi To Dedicate Salt Satyagraha Memorial At Dandi.

SPECIAL DAYS

DATE	SPECIAL DAY	THEME
1 ST January	DRDO Day	
	52nd World Peace Day	Good Politics is at the Service of Peace
4 th January	World Braille Day	
6 th January	World Day of War Orphans observed	
9 th January	NRI Day	
10 th January	World Hindi Day	
12 th January	National Youth Day	
21 st January	15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas from 21 st -23 rd	Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India
24 th January	International Day of Education	
	National Girl Child Day	Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow
25 th January	National Voters Day	No Voter to be left behind
26 th January	70th Republic Day	
	International Customs Day	SMART borders for seamless Trade, Travel and Transport
28 th January	Internationally Data Privacy & Protection Day	
30 th January	World Leprosy Day	
	National Martyrs' Day	

SPORTS

- **Virat Kohli** equaled Sourav Ganguly's record of **most overseas Test wins as India captain during the test series against Australia**.
- **Rishabh Pant** became the first **Indian wicket-keeper to claim 20 catches in Test series**.
- Indian pace trio of Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah broke the 34 year record of **highest test wickets in a calendar year to become the most successful pace trio with 131 wickets in 2018**.
- **Roger Federer and Serena Williams** set to play 'one-time' doubles match in **Hopman Cup** each other for the first time in their careers.
- **ICC announced women's ODI and T20 teams of the year, New Zealand's Suzie Bates was named as captain** of the 50-over side and **Harmanpreet Kaur of India appointed captain** of the T20 team.

- **Shooter Divyansh Singh Panwar** from Rajasthan and **shooter Nupur Patil** from Maharashtra have won **10th R RLakshya Cup 2018** in senior and junior category respectively.
- **Virat Kohli beats Sachin Tendulkar** to become the fastest to reach **19000 international runs**.
- India's **wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant** became the first Indian wicketkeeper batsman to score a century in Test against Australia.
- Pujara faces **1258 balls in Australia series, breaks Dravid's record** that had faced **1,203 deliveries in the four-match Test series in 2003-04**.
- **80th National Table Tennis Championship** begins in Cuttack (Odisha).
- **Thisara Perera** overhauls MS Dhoni, breaks 22-year-old record in epic 140 vs. New Zealand. 140 is now the third-highest score batting at No.7 or below in the ODIs, surpassing Dhoni's 139 against Africa XI in 2007 in Chennai.
- **Lady Head constable Rani** of 5th Indian Reserve Battalion of Himachal Pradesh Police has won the Gold medal in the **Senior National Women's Judo Championship** at Visakhapatnam.
- **India scripted history winning their first ever series on Australian soil beating the home team 2-1 in bilateral test series. Jasprit Bumrah finishes 2018 as the highest wicket-taker across all formats.**
- **Egypt** will host the **2019 Africa Cup of Nations**, the Confederation of African Football (Caf) has announced.
- **2nd Edition of Khelo India Youth Games Begins In Pune.**
- Hockey India removed **Harendra Singh** as coach India Men's Team.
- **M C Mary Kom** has attained number one position in the **International Boxing Association's (AIBA) latest world rankings**.
- **Birendra Prasad Baishya**, President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (WIF) was named Chef de Mission for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- The South African all rounder **Albie Morkel** announces retirement from all formats of cricket.
- Virat Kohli and Ravi Shastri get honorary membership of Sydney Cricket Ground.
- **Former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni** became the fifth Indian to reach the milestone of **10,000-run mark in One-Day Internationals (ODIs) for the country**.
- **Maharashtra** topped the medal tally with 37 **gold's at the Khelo India Youth Games in Pune**. It had 111 medals in its kitty with 37 gold, 31 silver and 43 bronze.
- **Gurgaon's 8-year-old Kartik Singh** has won the under-8 category at the Kids' **Golf World Championship** organized by US kids Golf in Malaysia, which makes him the **youngest Indian to win the title**.
- Asian Cup gold medalist and noted **oarsman Shakil Ahmed** set up a world record by **completing 100,000 (one lakh) metres of indoor rowing in the 40-years-and-above category here**.
- India coach **Stephen Constantine** stepped down after an **injury-time Bahrain penalty floored his side 1-0** and denied the cricket-mad nation a historic spot in the Asian Cup knockout stages.
- **Sarfraz took 10 catches** in the Johannesburg Test against Protease and in the process **went past Australia's Adam Gilchrist and India's MS Dhoni**.
- Chennai's **Gukesh** crowned **world's second youngest grand master 17th Delhi International Open Chess tournament** in Delhi.
- **Arsenal's Petr Cech** announces retirement from **football** at end of season
- Croatian tennis player, **Ivo Karlovic** becomes the **oldest man** to win a match at the **Australian Open at 40 years of age**.

- **Virat Kohli-led Indian cricket team** became the first visiting team to win bilateral series across the **three formats against Australia Down Under**.
- Vinesh Phogat Becomes First Indian To Be Nominated For **Laureus World Sports Awards**.
- **Ace striker Rani Rampal** will captain an 18-strong Indian women's hockey team for Spain tour.
- India's **Ankita Raina** has won the **International Tennis Federation's** 25,000-dollar Women's tournament in Singapore.
- Indonesia Masters Badminton tournament to begin in Jakarta.
- **Rishabh Pant** was named **ICC Emerging Player of the Year 2018** ahead of the ICC Awards.
- **Mohammed Shami** became the fastest Indian bowler to claim **100 ODI wickets, during the first one-dayer against New Zealand at Napier**.
- Former South Africa all-rounder **Johan Botha** has announced his immediate retirement from all forms of cricket.
- Saina Nehwal has been declared the winner of Indonesia Masters after Carolina Marin was forced to retire with a knee injury.
- **Indonesia masters list of winners 2019:**

Category	Winner	Runner up
Men's Singles	Anders Antonsen (Denmark)	Kento Momota (Japan)
Women's Singles	Saina Nehwal (India)	Carolina Marin (Spain)

- West Indies captain **Jason Holder** has become the first player from the country in 45 years to top the list of all-rounder in the International Cricket Council Test Player Rankings after slamming an unbeaten double-century that helped script a memorable 381-run win over England in the first Test in Bridgetown.
- **Novak Djokovic** says he is motivated by "having a shot" at Swiss great Roger Federer's all-time men's record of 20 Grand Slam victories.
- **The list of Winners of Australian Open 2019:**

Category	Winner	Runner up
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Rafael Nadal (Spain)
Women's Singles	Naomi Osaka (Japan)	Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic)

- **Kartik Sharma** wins New South Wales men's **Amateur Golf Championship**.
- **ICC suspends Ambati Rayudu** from bowling in international cricket.
- **Rohit Sharma-Virat Kohli** pair reached Joint 3rd in list of **most century stands in ODIs**.
- **Nagaland got a new chapter in its sports** history as Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio inaugurated the **first Astro turf football pitch at Indira Gandhi Stadium**.
- **A 73-year-old French sailor** has won an unusual, around-the-world yacht race **after 212 days alone** at sea without modern instruments — his first sailing victory.
- **Malaysia** removed from the right to host **world Para swimming championship 2019**, as Malaysia refused to allow Israeli athletes to take part in the game.

- **Magnus Carlsen** won the title and it is **7th Tata Steel Chess title after setting for a draw against Anish Giri in the final round.**
- **ICC announces 2019 World Cup warm-up fixtures**, India to face New Zealand and Bangladesh.

SURVEYS

- Andhra Pradesh emerged on top of Asia Competitiveness Institute (ACI), Singapore's **2018 Ease of Doing Business (EDB) Index ABC rankings for economies of 21 states of India.**
- **UNODC** to launch **Global Report on Trafficking in Persons** in Vienna.
- The volume of cyber fraud at banks has doubled in a year : **RBI Report**
- **Hardeep Singh Puri**, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, on January 4, 2019 launched the '**Swachh Survekshan 2019**', the **fourth edition of the annual nationwide cleanliness survey of urban India in New Delhi.**
- The Ministry of Culture announced that **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) declared 6 monuments** as 'protected and of national importance' under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, in 2018.
- Rising human trafficking takes on 'horrific dimensions': almost a third of victims are
- Indians **biggest supporters of International aid**: WEF global survey.
- **India** among the most trusted nations globally: 2019 Edelman Trust Barometer Report.
- India accounts more than half leprosy cases globally: WHO.
- **Japan, for the second time in a row**, has topped a global index for the world's most powerful passport in 2019, while **India ranked at the 79th position.**
- India ranked at **41st at the 11th edition of EIU Democracy Index 2018**, Norway topped the Index: Economist Intelligent Unit report.
- According to the **6th City Momentum Index**, released by property consultant JLL, **Bangalore has emerged as the world's most dynamic city** with a robust technology and innovation ecosystem in place.
- The London-based, **Times Higher Education (THE)** released the Emerging Economies University Rankings 2019 report which shows that **India has improved its ranking and secured a higher position with 49 institutions making it to the list.**
- India Ratings, a **Fitch Group Company**, estimated India's GDP growth could **touch 7.5 per cent in financial year 2019-20 as against 7.2 per cent** during current fiscal i.e. 2018-19.
- **The Global Risks Report 2019 14th Edition**, The report presents the results of our latest Global Risks Perception Survey, in which nearly 1,000 decision-makers from the public sector, private sector, academia and civil society assess the risks facing the world.
- **India and France** are likely to surpass the **UK in the world's largest economy rankings** in 2019, **knocking it from fifth to seventh place in the global table**, the report said.
- India is among the most trusted nations globally when it comes to government, business, NGOs and media.
- India **ranks 80th** on Global Talent Competitive Index 2019
- India grabbed the **54th spot among 60 counties in the Bloomberg Innovation Index** with a score of 47.93 out of 100.
- India **6th in GDPR readiness index: Cisco**, Nearly 65% of Indian organizations are better prepared for the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

- India has replaced Japan as world's second largest steel producing country, while China is the largest producer of crude steel accounting for more than 51 per cent of production, according to World Steel Association.
- **Dubai International Airport (DXB)** retained its position as the **world's busiest airport** for international customer numbers for the fifth consecutive year with annual traffic for 2018.
- First captive elephant survey is in: 2,454 is official count. The MoEF told the apex court that 58 per cent of all captive elephants are concentrated in two states: **905 in Assam** and 518 in Kerala.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

BOOK	AUTHOR	SPEAKS ABOUT
We are Displaced	Malala Yousafzai	Charting her experiences travelling the world and visiting refugee camps.
New Brazilian Poems	Abhay Kumar	
Nireeshwaran	VJ James	

DEATHS

- Veteran Bollywood actor **Kader Khan** passed away
- Early Internet Pioneer **Larry Roberts** Passed Away.
- Veteran Kannada actor **CH Lokanath** dies.
- **Ramakant Achrekar**, Sachin Tendulkar's coach passed away.
- Bengali writer **Dibyendu Palit** passed away.
- **Lessie Brown**, a 114-year-old Ohio woman who was believed to be the oldest person in the United States died.
- Malayalam director **Lenin Rajendran** passed away.
- Noted British mathematician **Michael Atiyah** with India links dead.
- Former Maharashtra Minister **Shivajirao Deshmukh** passed away.
- Malayalam Director **Lenin Rajendran** passed away.
- Vanguard Group Founder **John C. Bogle** passed away.
- **Mary Oliver**, a Pulitzer Prize Winning Poet, Dies at Age.
- **Philippines** wealthiest man **Henry Sy** passed away.
- **Tony Mendez**, the real CIA spy behind Argo passed away.
- Former India hockey player **Ragbir Bhole** passed away.
- Senior journalist **Gopinath Kochattil** passed away.
- Bengali Writer **Atin Bandyopadhyay** Passed Away.
- Pulitzer Prize-Winning Columnist **Russell Baker** passed away.
- Famous Hindi writer **Krishna Sobti** passed away.
- Ex Goa governor and former minister **Bhanu Prakash Singh** dies.
- Veteran Bengali Actress **Supriya Devi** Passed Away.
- Oscar-winning French composer **Michel Legrand** dies.
- Former defence minister **George Fernandes** passed away.