

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

ALSO DOWNLOAD

[Current Affairs December 2019 PDF](#)

[Current Affairs November 2019 PDF](#)

[Current Affairs October 2019 PDF](#)

[Current Affairs September 2019 PDF](#)

[Current Affairs August 2019 PDF](#)

[Current Affairs July 2019 PDF](#)

Important Static General Knowledge Topics

<u>Asian Countries Capitals Currencies</u>	<u>Australian Countries Capitals Currencies</u>	<u>African Countries Capitals Currencies</u>
<u>European Countries Capitals Currencies</u>	<u>North American Countries Capitals Currencies</u>	<u>South American Countries Capitals Currencies</u>
<u>International Organisation and their Headquarters</u>	<u>Recent Important Brand Ambassador Names</u>	<u>Important Research Institutes in India</u>
<u>Space and Nuclear Research Centers in India</u>	<u>Longest and Largest in India</u>	<u>Railway Zones in India</u>
<u>List of Firsts in India (Female)</u>	<u>List of Firsts in India (Male)</u>	<u>Classical Dances of India</u>
<u>List of Chief Ministers and Governors of Indian States</u>	<u>National Emblems of Famous Countries</u>	<u>Signs and Symbols and Their Meanings</u>
<u>News Agencies of Different Countries</u>	<u>Famous Monuments Of World</u>	<u>Aluminium companies in India</u>
<u>Trophies and Cups associated with Sports</u>	<u>Census 2011</u>	<u>Thermal and Nuclear Power Plants in India</u>
<u>Important Committees In India</u>	<u>Cabinet Ministers and their Constituencies</u>	<u>Different Types of Writs in Indian Constitution</u>
<u>List of Presidents of India since 1950</u>	<u>Prime Ministers of India</u>	<u>Schedules in Constitution of India</u>

Share this PDF with your Friends!!!

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Awards and Honours

Name	Award Name	Extra Information
Usha International	Appliance of the Year Award 2019	Usha International, India's leading consumer durables company, has awarded the Appliance of the Year Award in the Ceiling Fan Category for its Energia range of ceiling fans at the National Energy Conservation Awards 2019 held in New Delhi recently.
HDFC Bank	Award for Remarkable Contribution towards Rural India	HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector banking and financial services company has been adjudged as the winner in the 'Innovation and Inclusiveness in Priority Sector Lending' category at the '11th Inclusive Finance India Awards' in the '16th Inclusive Finance Summit' organized in New Delhi.
Cristiano Ronaldo	best men's player award	Cristiano Ronaldo ended the year by winning the best men's player at the Dubai Globe Soccer Awards here.
'1917' and Tarantino's 'Hollywood'	Golden Globes 2020 – BEST PICTURE	The film won best comedy or musical, along with best supporting actor for Brad Pitt and best screenplay for Tarantino.
Ishwar Sharma	Global Child Prodigy Award 2020	He received his Certificate of Achievement at a special event attended by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and Dr. Kiran Bedi, Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, in New Delhi in January 2020.
Jasprit Bumrah	Polly Umrigar Award	He awarded for being the best international cricketer at the BCCI Annual Awards.
Dr Sakya Singha Sen, Dr Debojyoti Chakraborty, Dr Dipyaman Ganguly, Dr Siddhesh S Kamat, Dr Mahendran K, Dr Basker Sundararaju	Merck Young Scientist Award 2019	Indian researchers have received first Merck Young Scientist Award 2019 in Chemical Sciences recently at Bangalore instituted by Merck, a science and technology company operating worldwide.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Prof M S Swaminathan	Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National Award	The award also presented to Mr Muniratnam. Mr Muniratnam was the first person to receive the award four days back.
'Parasite' film	top prize at Screen Actors Guild Awards	The Korean-language film "Parasite" won the top prize, for best ensemble cast in a motion picture, at the Screen Actors Guild Awards.
Tata Steel Kalinganagar	honoured at the World Economic Forum 2020	Tata Steel Kalinganagar has honoured at the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2020 for its recent admittance into the Global Lighthouse Network.
Pavan Sukhdev	2020 Tyler Prize	He acknowledged for his work on bringing the economic consequences of environmental degradation and loss to the attention of corporate and political decision-makers.

Appointments

Name	Designation	Extra Information
Vinod Kumar Yadav	Chairman - Railway Board	The Appointments Committee has approved the reappointment of Vinod Kumar Yadav as Chairman of Railway Board.
MSG Menon VSM	Air Officer-in-Charge Administration	He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Calicut University. He has undergone Higher Air Command Course from College of Air Warfare.
Vibhas Pande VSM	Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance	He started his career as Engineering Officer in IAF with fighter aircraft and later also gained experience in maintenance operations on transport aircraft and helicopters.
S S Deswal	CRPF – Director General	ITBP Director General S S Deswal has given the "additional" charge to head country's largest paramilitary force CRPF as its serving DG, R R Bhatnagar, retired.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Amit Talgeri	Axis Bank - Chief Risk Officer	Axis Bank appointed Amit Talgeri as the Chief Risk Officer (CRO) of the bank for three years, from January 1, 2020.
Sameer Aggarwal	Walmart India - Deputy CEO	He will continue reporting to Krish Iyer, President & CEO Walmart India, and oversee operations, merchandising, people.
Rahul Sood	BBC Global News - MD for India and South Asia	He will assume management of the commercial sales teams across the region with head of distribution, Sunil Joshi, and advertising sales director, Vishal Bhatnagar, reporting directly to him.
Arun Kumar Shukla	CMD of Hindustan Copper	Arun Kumar Shukla has taken over as the new chairperson and managing director of Hindustan Copper Limited on January 1, 2020. He had earlier joined the company as Director (Operations) on October 1, 2018.
Umaro Cissoko Embalo	Guinea-Bissau – President	The 47-year-old beat rival Domingos Simoes Pereira by about 54% to 46%, the electoral commission announced.
Suresh Chandra Sharma	chairman of National Medical Commission (NMC)	The NMC has mandated with framing policies for regulating medical institutions and medical professionals in the country.
Hillary Clinton	chancellor of Queen's University in Belfast	Clinton who is a regular visitor to Northern Ireland back to the first visit of President Bill Clinton in 1995, becomes the university's first female chancellor. She will serve as chancellor for a five-year term.
Esmail Qaani	Iran – New Commander	Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei named as the Deputy Head of the Revolutionary Guards foreign operations arm Esmail Qaani to replace Qasem Soleimani as its commander. Soleimani killed in a pre-dawn US strike in Baghdad.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Abhinav Kumar	Inspector General – Border Security Force	The appointment Committee of the Cabinet approved the plan of Ministry of Home Affairs for extension of deputation tenure of IPS Abhinav Kumar, Inspector General, Border Security Force (BSF) beyond 31.10.2019 and up to 27.07.2021 in relaxation of IPS Tenure Policy.
Sandip Patel	IBM - MD of India, South Asia operations	He will succeed Karan Bajwa who will pursue opportunities outside IBM, the company said in a statement.
Sandip Soparrkar	board of director for International Business School, Washington (IBSW)	Working to promote young and upcoming artists for almost 20 years, Sandip is instrumental in bringing the classic Latin and Ballroom dances and other world dances to Indian shores.
Tsai Ing-wen	Taiwan - President	Ms Tsai secured just over 57% of the ballot – a record 8.2m votes – well ahead of her rival Han Kuo-yu.
Madan Lal, Gautam Gambhir	BCCI - CAC members	The third member of the panel is likely to be Mumbai-based woman international Sulakshana Naik, who has played two Tests and 46 ODIs for the country.
Michael Debabrata Patra	RBI's fourth Deputy Governor	Patra is currently the Executive Director of the RBI. He will take over the position lying vacant after Viral Acharya's exit last year. Patra will serve a term of three years.
Girish Kumar	Surveyor General of India	Kumar was in September 2017 appointed as the Surveyor General of India under the Survey of India, the national survey and mapping organization of the country.
Ajay Khanna	Head of marketing operations for India – Amway	Khanna is a marketing veteran with over 24 years of experience in the FMCG and telecom industry and has taken over the reins from Sundip Shah.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Anand Prakash Maheshwari	Director General - CRPF	IPS officer Anand Prakash Maheshwari took over as the new director general of the CRPF.
Janak Raj	third internal member of the monetary policy committee	Janak Raj expected to appoint as the third internal member of the central bank in the monetary policy committee. He is currently serving as RBI's principal adviser in the monetary policy department. He will replace Michael Patra, the executive director of the monetary policy department, who was elevated as deputy governor.
Vasdev Mohi	29th Saraswati Samman	Vasdev Mohi was born in 1944 in Mirpur Khas. Mohi's repertoire includes 25 books of poetry, critical pieces, translated works, and short stories.
Col Yuvraj Malik	National Book Trust – Director	Lt Col Yuvraj Malik appointed as the Director of the National Book Trust on deputation from the Indian Army. He will replace Sahitya Akademi-awardee writer Rita Chowdhury.
Arjun Munda	president of Archery Association of India	Union minister Arjun Munda has been elected as president of the suspended Archery Association of India.
Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi	First Punjab PCA chairperson	The Punjab govt appointed retired bureaucrat Nirmaljeet singh kalsi as the first chairperson of state police complaints authority.
N Kumar	Harit Ratna Award	N Kumar, VC of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, has been conferred 'Harit Ratna Award 2019' by the All India Agricultural Students Association for dissemination of ₹30-crore entrepreneurship project in agri-business and for motivating students to the agriculture sector in the State.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Katerina Sakellaropoulou	Greece - first female President	The 63-year-old was elected to the top post in a historic vote, which saw 261 of the total 294 MPs vote in favour of her.
Joao Vale de Almeida	first post-Brexit UK ambassador	Portuguese diplomat Joao Vale de Almeida was appointed as the head of future EU diplomatic mission to the UK after Brexit on 24 January. The UK's exit was scheduled for 31 January 2020.
Ramesh Joshi	Vakrangee - Non-Executive Chairman	Vakrangee Limited has appointed Mr. Ramesh Joshi (EX-RBI & EX-SEBI ED), a veteran with over 40 years of experience, as the Non-Executive Chairman of the company
Taranjit Singh Sandhu	India's Ambassador to USA	Taranjit Singh Sandhu Sandhu, a 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently posted as High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka.
Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdelaziz Al Thani	Qatar – Prime Minister	Qatar appointed a new Prime Minister replacing Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani.
Sunil Mehta	IBA Chief Executive	Mehta recently retired as the Managing Director and CEO of Punjab National Bank.
Agni Prasad Sapkota	Nepal's newly elected Speaker	Nepal's newly elected Speaker of House of Representatives, the Lower House of the Parliament, Agni Prasad Sapkota has assumed the office. President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Saptoka at the President's House in Kathmandu.
Janak Raj	Principal advisor to the monetary policy department, as executive director	Patra will be part of the six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) as a deputy governor, and so will be Raj as an ED of the department. Raj would be part of MPC as an internal RBI member.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Alok Kansal	New general manager of Western Railway	Central Railway (CR) General Manager Sanjeev Mittal was holding the additional charge as WR GM. The post held by Anil Kumar Gupta, who retired in November 2019.
Harsh Vardhan Shringla	new Foreign Secretary	Speaking to reporters, Mr Shringla said, he is very clear about the fact that foreign service is a public service and its every effort should be dedicated to contributing towards the nation in the form of its security and prosperity through external engagements.
Arvind Krishna	CEO of global tech giant IBM	Indian-origin Arvind Krishna has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of American IT giant IBM, succeeding Ginni Rometty. The 57-year-old will take over on April 6.
Rani Rampal	World Games Athlete of the Year' award	The World Games announced the winner last night after 20 days of polling in January this year by sports fans worldwide.

Banking and Finance

RBI launches 'MANI' app for visually challenged to identify currency notes

- With an eye to aid the differently abled, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched a mobile app to identify currency notes. The visually challenged can identify the denomination of a note by using the application, which can also work offline once it is installed, the central bank said.
- Users can download the app, called 'MANI', which is an acronym for Mobile Aided Note Identifier, and will have to scan the notes using the camera.

Bank of Baroda co-lend with JM Financial

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) entered into a co-lending agreement with JM Financial Home Loans Ltd (JMFHL) to offer loans to homebuyers.
- The tie-up is expected to create an effective lending model by combining the expertise of both BoB and JMFHL to provide a seamless experience to retail home loan customers.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Standard Health Insurance Policy: Arogya Sanjeevani Policy to be launched soon

- IRDAI has mandated all general and health insurance companies to offer a Standard Health Insurance Product (SHIP). The SHIP is aimed at taking care of basic health needs, carrying similar policy wordings and enabling seamless portability among the insurers.

Indian Bank partners with WEWA to help women entrepreneurs set up businesses

- Indian Bank has entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Women Entrepreneurs Welfare Association (WEWA), Tamil Nadu, to offer training and credit linkage to women members/entrepreneurs of the association for establishing business.
- WEWA said that members would get support for loans at special discounted rates.

Four PSUs get MDs and CEOs

- The Finance Ministry appointed managing directors (MDs) and chief executive officers (CEOs) of four PSU banks. The four banks for which new MD & CEOs were announced were Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC), Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), United Bank of India (UBI) and Vijaya Bank.

Appointments:

1. Bank of India's Executive Director R Koteeswaran has been appointed as MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank.
2. Animesh Chauhan, executive director with Central Bank of India will head Oriental Bank of Commerce.
3. Kishore Kumar Sansi, who is currently executive director of Punjab and Sind Bank, will be the new MD and CEO of Vijaya Bank.
4. P Srinivas moves from Bank of Baroda to the United Bank of India as MD and CEO.

RBI ups investment limit for FPIs in govt, corporate bonds

- The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday raised the investment limit for FPIs in government and corporate bonds to bring in more foreign funds into the market.
- Currently, short-term investments by a foreign portfolio investors (FPI) should not exceed 20 per cent of the total investment of that FPI in either central government securities (including treasury bills) or state development loans or corporate bonds.

ICICI Bank launch of a Cardless Cash Withdrawal Facility

- ICICI Bank announced the launch of a 'Cardless Cash Withdrawal' facility from its ATMs on 21 January 2020. ICICI Bank's Cardless Cash Withdrawal service will allow customers to withdraw cash from over 15,000 ATMs of the bank by raising a request on its mobile banking app, iMobile. ICICI customers can now withdraw cash without using a debit card at ATMs.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

World Bank's Global Economic Prospect: World Economic Growth projected at 2.5%

- The World Bank released its Global Economic Prospect. According to its forecast, the world is expected to grow economically at the rate of 2.5%. This is the lowest prediction since that predicted in 2008-09, 3.1%. By then, the global financial crisis derailed the economy.

IRDA imposes Rs 1 crore penalty on Cholamandalam MS General Insurance

- The insurance regulator has imposed a penalty of 1 crore on Cholamandalam MS General Insurance after charging the company of paying money in advance to businesses in violation of corporate governance rules.
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) said in a statement that it framed charges against Cholamandalam MS General Insurance in a case related to declaration of funds paid in advance to Ashok Leyland, Cholamandalam MS Risk Services and DHFL.

PayU buys PaySense for an equity valuation of \$185 million

- In an all cash deal, PayU, one of the leading payment and fintech company in India has decided to acquire significant majority equity stake in PaySense, one of the fastest growing digital credit platform for an equity value of \$185 million.

Axis Mutual Fund launches 'Axis All Seasons Debt Fund of Funds'

- Axis Mutual Fund announced its new fund – 'Axis All Seasons Debt Fund of Funds'. It is an open-ended fund of funds scheme investing in debt-oriented mutual fund schemes. The All Season Debt FoF will invest in funds from across fund houses and across different categories of the debt market with an intention to generate optimal return over the medium term.

RBI buys 15 tonnes of gold in Oct-Nov

- The Reserve Bank of India stepped up hedging against currency volatility by purchasing 0.48 million troy ounce, close to 15 tonnes, of gold in October-November, central bank data showed. This is the highest bi-monthly gold purchase by the central bank since it started buying gold from the open market in December 2017.

Mastercard to invest \$1 bn in India over 5 years towards tech development

- Global payments company Mastercard planned to invest nearly \$1 billion in India over the next five years. The proposed investment will be made over five years in our India operations includes an R&D facility at Pune and another center at Vadodara.
- The facilities catered to the company's global operations, of which Vadodara provided the backend multiple payment support. Khanna noted that Mastercard, as a technology-driven global entity.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

ICICI Bank launch of a Cardless Cash Withdrawal Facility

- ICICI Bank announced the launch of a ‘Cardless Cash Withdrawal’ facility from its ATMs on 21 January 2020. ICICI Bank’s Cardless Cash Withdrawal service will allow customers to withdraw cash from over 15,000 ATMs of the bank by raising a request on its mobile banking app, iMobile. ICICI customers can now withdraw cash without using a debit card at ATMs.

Mutual funds infused Rs 670 crore in REITs in 2019: SEBI

- Emerging investment instruments REITs and InvITs seem to be finally catching investors’ fancy, with mutual funds investing a whopping Rs 12,000 crore in such units in 2019.
- Fund managers infused Rs 670 crore in real estate investment trusts (REITs) and Rs 11,347 crore in infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) last year, according to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

India, World Bank sign USD 210 mn loan agreement for Maharashtra's Agribusiness

- Government of India (GoI) and the World Bank signed a \$210 million loan agreement for the State of Maharashtra. The loan was aimed to support Agribusiness and Rural Transformation projects in the state. The loan amount from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a grace period of six years and a maturity period of 13.5 years.

Google Pay introduces UPI recharge option for FASTag

- In a bid to help its users recharge their FASTag accounts faster, Google Pay announced that it has added a new Unified Payments Interface (UPI) feature that will let them link FASTag accounts to the Google Pay app and recharge and track their payments.
- According to the company, to recharge their FASTag accounts, users need to open their Google Pay app, look for the FASTag category under the “Bill Payments” section and select the bank that has issued their FASTag.

SBI takes over as lead financier of Navi Mumbai Airport project

- State Bank of India has taken over as the lead financier for India’s costliest airport project planned to be set up in Navi Mumbai, said multiple people aware of the development.
- SBI has agreed to disburse a term loan and facilitate the much-delayed financial closure of the Rs 16,000-crore Navi Mumbai International Airport, to be built by the GVK PowerNSE & Infra-led consortium that runs the commercial capital’s current airport, which is India’s second busiest and most congested.

Kotak Mahindra Bank gets RBI nod to cap promoters’ voting rights at 20% till March

- Kotak Mahindra Bank and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) seem to have reached a truce on the long standing battle to bring down promoter shareholding, and withdrew the writ petition filed by the bank in Bombay High Court against the regulator.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

- On January 30, Kotak Mahindra Bank wrote to exchanges stating that the banking regulator has agreed ‘in-principle’ to cap promoters’ voting rights to 20 percent of the paid up voting equity share capital until March 31, 2020.

Railways on-track with RFID tech implementation

- Keeping on track the implementation of latest Radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology, to accurately track and trace Railway movement across the country with focus on safety, the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS, the IT arm of the Indian Railways), GS1 India and the Indian Industry have come joined hands under the government’s flagship ‘Make in India’ programme.

IOB receives government capital infusion of Rs 4,360 crore

- Public sector Indian Overseas Bank has received capital infusion of Rs 4,360 crore from the government of India, the bank said.
- In a regulatory filing to the stock exchanges, the bank said it has received the amount as contribution of the government in preferential allotment of equity shares during the financial year 2019-20 as government’s investment.

Karur Vysya Bank MD and CEO P R Seshadri resigns citing personal reasons

- P R Seshadri, managing director and CEO of Karur Vysya Bank, resigned from the position citing personal reasons, the Bank informed the exchanges. It said Seshadri submitted his resignation through a letter.
- The Board of Directors of the Bank accepted the resignation on the day and he will be relieved from services on March 31, based on his request. He was appointed as the MD and CEO in September, 2017.

NSE taps Sebi for IPO even as banks plan to offload shares

- The National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) has formally approached the stock market regulator for an initial public offering (IPO) of its shares, even as two state-run lenders have started selling some of their NSE shares ahead of the IPO.

UCO Bank extending credit linkage to 10,000 self help groups

- State-owned lender UCO Bank has said it has recovered ₹800-900 crore from four large stressed accounts in the December quarter under the bankruptcy law and is extending credit linkage to 10,000 Self Help Groups
- “We recovered between ₹800-900 crore from four important accounts in the December quarter,” UCO Bank Managing Director and Chief Executive A K Goel said.

Equitas Bank waives non-maintenance charges on all savings account

- Equitas Small Finance Bank has waived non-maintenance charges on all savings account. The bank also offered lower transaction charges to customers. This is expected to benefit certain of its customers. Currently the bank offers upto 7.5% interest on savings account.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

- The Average Monthly Balance (AMB) to be maintained in Equitas Small Finance Bank depends on the region. If the branch is in metro, then the customer is required to maintain ₹10,000. For semi-urban and rural branches, Equitas Small Finance Bank customer is required to maintain ₹5,000 and ₹2,500 respectively.

World Bank predicts Sri Lanka's economic growth at 3.3 pct for 2020

- The World Bank has forecast Sri Lanka's economic growth at 3.3 per cent for 2020 saying the growth is likely to remain below four per cent in next three years.
- The bank said, in its latest report of World Bank's January 2020 Global Economic Prospects, that for 2021 and 2022, it maintains the same forecast of 3.7 per cent of economic growth in Sri Lanka.

Inflation jumps to 5-year high of 7.35%, could hold RBI back from cutting rates again

- India's retail inflation soared to 7.35 per cent in December on account of a sharp increase in vegetable prices, increasing the likelihood of the Reserve Bank of India holding on to key policy rates in the monetary policy review due next month.
- Inflation based on the consumer price index rose sharply for the fifth consecutive month, breaching the upper level of the RBI's inflation targeting mandate. The inflation targeting mandate as per the law is 4 per cent with a +/-2 per cent band.

Visa to buy fintech startup Plaid in \$5.3 billion deal

- Visa Inc has agreed to buy privately held financial technology startup Plaid Inc in a \$5.3 billion deal, the payments processor said on Monday. The news was first reported by the Wall Street Journal, which said Plaid was valued at nearly \$2.65 billion in a 2018 funding round.

RBI to impose fines on banks with poor progress

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is to impose heavy penalties on banks, and stipulate higher provisioning for stressed loans. RBI announced it earlier on 7 June 2019.
- For the first time, RBI has said that the chief executive officers (CEOs) and senior management of banks can also be held liable for lack of progress. The fresh set of guidelines will be in the public domain by the end of March.

Assam, World Bank sign \$88 mn loan agreement to implement Inland Water Transport Project

- World Bank signed an \$88 million loan agreement with the Government of India and the Government of Assam on 16 January 2020. The loan is to help modernize Assam's passenger ferry sector that runs on its rivers including the Brahmaputra and implement Inland Water Transport Project.

RBI directs issuers to provide a facility to switch on, off cards

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed banks and other card-issuing companies to provide a facility to customers to switch on and off their debit or credit cards. The

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

move by RBI aims to enhance the security of digital transactions. It assumes significance amid rising instances of cyber fraud.

ICICI Bank launches iBox facility

- ICICI Bank has launched a self-service delivery tool for customers called the iBox. Using the new facility, ICICI Bank customers can collect their deliverables like debit cards, credit cards, cheque book and returned-cheques from the bank branch near to their home or office.

Central Banks approve reduced fees for UPI RuPay Payment

- Central Banks in India approve that they will not charge a part of the fees on Unified Payments Interface UPI and RuPay card transactions as long as the merchant discount rate MDR remains zero following the government announcement.
- The move was discussed and approved in the NPCI steering committee meeting. NPCI to remove multiple charges like interchange fees, payments service provider (PSP) fee, and switching fees.

Indian Affairs

Rajnath Singh flagged off 51st K9 VAJRA-T Gun from Larsen and Turbo Armoured System Complex in Gujarat

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off 51st K9 VAJRA-T Gun from Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Armoured System Complex at Hazira, Gujarat on 16 January 2020. The participation of the private sector in defence manufacturing is toward fulfilling the government's commitment to make India an arms manufacturing hub and net defence exporter.

RPF renamed as Indian Railways Protection Force Service; Railway prices hiked

- The Railways Ministry has renamed Railway Protection Force (RPF) as Indian Railway Protection Force Service. The ministry has also accorded Group A status to RPF.
- The Indian Railways has increased the train fares to 1p per km from January, 1, 2020 in non-suburban trains and non-air-conditioned trains. The fares have been hiked by 2p per km. The price hike was published by Indian Railway Conference Association.

Central Equipment Identify Register: Government launches web portal to trace stolen mobiles

- The Government of India on December 30, 2019, launched "Central Equipment Identify Register" portal to block and trace mobile phones. The web portal will operate under Department of Telecom.

India commences worlds largest ever vaccination programme to control FMD

- National Animal Disease Control Programme for FMD and Brucellosis The union Government launched a new scheme National Animal Disease Control Programme for

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

FMD and Brucellosis with a financial outlay of Rs. 13,343.00 crore for five years (2019-20 to 2023-24) by vaccinating 100% cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, and pig population for FMD and 100% bovine female calves of 4-8 months of age for brucellosis to prevent loss of Rs. 50,000 crores.

Indian govt to give 5G spectrum for trials to all telecom players

- The Indian government decided to allocate spectrum to all telecom operators and equipment makers for the upcoming 5G trials in the country. The announcement made by India's federal technology and communications minister, Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- The government decided to give 5G Spectrum for a trial to all operators in the country. The Chinese telecom equipment maker Huawei to conduct super-fast speed 5G network trials in India.

Nirmala Sitharaman unveils Rs 102 lakh crore of infra projects for next 5 years

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled Rs 102 lakh crore of infrastructure projects that will be implemented in the next five years as part of the government's spending push in the infrastructure sector.
- Addressing a press conference, she said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had in his Independence Day speech spoken of investing Rs 100 lakh crore in infrastructure.

WhatsApp service and helpline number launched for women

- The Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) has launched a dedicated women helpline, 'Damini', which is a calling and a WhatsApp service for the safety of women.
- The unique number "81142-77777" has been subscribed for the helpline, which is an extension of the 'Nirbhaya Yojana' that aims to ensure safety of women.

AAI to set up India's first three water aerodromes in Andaman & Nicobar

- Airports Authority of India (AAI) is in the process of seeking environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for three, first-of-its-kind in the country, water aerodromes in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- The AAI intends to develop water aerodromes in Long Island, Swaraj Island and Shaheed Island with a total investment of Rs 50 crore and sought clearance for preparing the Terms of References separately for three airports.

Election Commission launches PPRTMS-an online system

- The Election Commission of India launched an online system that will allow political parties to track their applications. The system is called Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System (PPRTMS).
- The system will track applications registered by political parties. The status of the application shall be obtained through SMS or e-mail. The system works on a real time basis.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

PM Modi to inaugurate 107th Indian Science Congress in Bengaluru tomorrow

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 107th Indian Science Congress in Bengaluru.
- The theme of the congress this year is “Science and Technology: Rural Development”. The five-day event will bring together science fraternity across the world to discuss scientific innovation and research.

5th IHAI National Ice Hockey Championship-2020 begins in Leh

- The 5th Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) National Ice Hockey Championship - 2020 has begun in Leh. In the inaugural match in Under-20 Boys category between Chandigarh and Haryana, the contest ended in a draw with 4 goals each.

14 scientists awarded Swarna Jayanti Fellowships

- The Union Ministry of Science and Technology have awarded Swarna Jayanti Fellowships to 14 scientists to pursue basic research in frontier areas of science and technology.
- The fellowship covers all the requirements for performing the research and includes a fellowship of 25 thousand rupees per month. A research grant of five lakh rupees for five years is also being provided in addition to their salary.

India to host 36th International Geological Congress in March

- The theme of the programme is ‘Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future’
- India will host the 36th International Geological Congress, aimed at the development of Earth Sciences, in the National Capital Region (NCR) from March 2-8, the organisers said on January 2.
- Described as the “Olympics of Geosciences,” the event will witness debates and discussions on a wide range of issues affecting the world, such as sustainable development, climate change, water and mineral resources.

Cabinet approves Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020

- Union Cabinet has approved the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The bill will amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. It will be introduced in the budget session of the Parliament.
- Briefing media in New Delhi, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said, for Medical termination of pregnancy, permission will be needed, from two doctors and one of them must be a government doctor. The limit of termination of pregnancy has been increased from 20 weeks to 24 weeks.

Cabinet approves 30 per cent of North-Eastern Council’s allocation for new projects

- Cabinet has approved allocation of 30 per cent of the North-Eastern Council’s allocation for new projects. This will help in focused development of deprived areas, neglected sections of society and emerging priority sectors.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

- The Cabinet has also approved extension of Productivity-Linked Reward Scheme for the employees and workers of the Major Port Trust and Dock Labour Board for the period beyond 2017-18.

Ten more wetlands in India declared as Ramsar sites

- India added ten more wetlands to sites protected by the Ramsar Convention, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar. The 10 new ones are **Nandur Madhameshwar, a first for Maharashtra; Keshopur-Miani, Beas Conservation Reserve and Nangal in Punjab; and Nawabganj, Parvati Agra, Saman, Samaspur, Sandi and Sarai Nawar in Uttar Pradesh.** The other Ramsar sites are in Rajasthan, Kerala, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Tripura.
- A total of **37 sites** in the homeland recognized under the international treaty. Wetlands declared as Ramsar sites are protected under strict guidelines. The Convention signed in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar is one of the oldest inter-governmental accords for preserving the ecological character of wetlands. The main aim is to develop a global network of wetlands for the conservation of biological diversity and for sustaining human life.

Indian Railways commissions first waste to energy plant

- Indian Railways commissioned the country's first governmental waste to energy plant at Bhubaneswar. The national transporter has put in place the governmental Waste to Energy plant in Mancheswar Carriage Repair Workshop, which falls under East Coast Railway.
- The waste to energy plant been constructed in three months by the railway ministry. The new plant installed at the cost of ₹1.79 crores while the maintenance cost will be ₹10.4 lakhs per year, and the estimated income from the byproducts will be ₹17.5 lakhs per year.

Union Cabinet approves official amendments in the National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi got its approval to the official amendments in the National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill 2019 for amending the Homoeopathy Central Council (HCC) Act, 1973. The Bill is pending in Rajya Sabha.

The amendments will:

- Ensure necessary regulatory reforms in the field of Homoeopathy education.
- Enable transparency and accountability.
- The Commission will promote the availability of affordable healthcare services in all parts of the country.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Samvidhaan is Oxford Hindi Word Of The Year 2019

- Oxford University Press (OUP) named Samvidhaan as the Oxford Hindi Word of 2019 received widespread attention in the year witness to the spirit of the Indian Constitution being embraced across segments of the society. The Samvidhan Oxford Hindi word of the year and reflects the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the past year.
- Samvidhaan means a body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organization is acknowledged to be governed.

Dr Jitendra Singh launches Bhuvan Panchayat V 3.0 Web portal

- The Union Minister of State (I/C) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the Bhuvan Panchayat V 3.0 web portal in Bengaluru.
- Speaking after inaugurating the National Workshop on “Space Based Information Support for Decentralised Planning Update”, the Minister appreciated the ISRO’s effort in developing the portal and also said that Space technology has reached the houses of the common man.

16th edition of Mumbai International Film Festival to be inaugurated at Nehru Centre Auditorium

- The oldest international event for non-feature films in South Asia is getting off to a start, providing a wonderful opportunity for film-lovers to be entertained and inspired by the finest documentary, short and animation films.
- Much awaited by cinephiles across India and the world, the 16th MIFF 2020 (Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation films), will be inaugurated on 28th January, 2020 at 5.00 pm at Nehru Centre Auditorium, Worli.

Mangaluru Smart City, IGBC ink pact

- The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) and Mangaluru Smart City Ltd (MSCL) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for sustainable development in Mangaluru. Mohammed Nazeer, Managing Director of MSCL, and DB Mehta, Chairman of the Mangaluru chapter of IGBC, signed the MoU in Mangaluru.

MSME-EPC organized summit to boost NE entrepreneurs

- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Export Promotion Council (MSNE-EPC) is organizing the first three-day summit from 17 January 2020. It is organized by the Assam state government.
- The aim is to aspire entrepreneurs in the North East to pave the way for the development of entrepreneurship and businesses by women and youths of the region.

VigyanSamagam to be held from 21 January to 20 March in New Delhi

- A multi-venue mega-science exhibition ‘Vigyan Samagam’ has been scheduled to be held in New Delhi from 21 January to 20 March 2020 at the National Science Centre

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

(NSC), New Delhi. The first-of-its-kind exhibition is being hosted in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, and Delhi from May 2019 to March 2020. The exhibition has been hosted for around two months at each venue.

National Information Centre sets up Centre of Block Chain Technology in Bengaluru

- The National Informatics Centre (NIC) will set up block chain technology centre in Bengaluru. The centre is to be inaugurated by Union Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad. The centre aims to provide Block Chain as service to all the stake holders who are interested in shared experiences, learning and resources.

Exercise Sahyog Kaijin began in Chennai port

- Indo-Japan joint-exercise Sahyog-Kaijin began on 16 January 2020 at the Chennai port. This is the 19th edition of the exercise that is being conducted between the two Coast Guards.
- The exercise is aimed at further strengthening bilateral ties and mutual understanding between the two coast guards. It also aims to enhance interoperability in communication, search and rescue procedures and sharing of best practices.
- The exercise Sahyog-Kaijin is in line with the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed between the Indian Coast Guard and Japan Coast Guard in 2006.
- Since then, there have been regular interactions including high-level visits, training exchanges, annual joint exercises, workshops, and seminars.

International Summit on Women in STEM was held in New Delhi

- An International Summit on Women in STEM – Visualizing the Future: New Skylines on 23-24 January 2020 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Organized by: The 2-day international summit was organized by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology.
- The Summit was organized with an aim to boost the participation of women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields for the development of scientific careers.

9th International Children’s Film Festival begins in Kolkata

- The 9th International Children’s Film Festival begins in Kolkata with the screening of Aizaz Khan directed Hamid. About 250 films from 45 countries will be screened in the week-long festival.
- According to the official sources, the National Award winner Children actor, Talha Arsad Rishi will inaugurate the festival.

World Gold Council report: RBI ranks 6th in buying gold abroad

- The World Gold Council (WGC) recently released its report, “World Gold Outlook 2020”. The report says that gold has performed the best since 2010 in 2019. In 2019, the gold trade in USD has increased by 18.4% as compared to 2010.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

- According to the WGC, RBI (Reserve Bank of India) currently holds 625.2 tonnes of gold. This is 6.6% of the country's foreign exchange. With this, India ranks sixth in the world among other central banks.

GoI launches “Seismic Hazard Microzonation” to minimize earthquake disasters

- The Ministry of Earth Science has launched Seismic Hazard Microzonation project in major cities of India. The project aims to reduce hazards of seismic activities by putting in adequate measures.
- It is the process of dividing earth quake prone areas based on certain factors. The factors include geological and geophysical characteristics of sites.

DV Sadananda Gowda launches APNA UREA – SonaUgle” brand of HURL

- Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda launched the APNA UREA – Sona Ugle brand of Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited (HURL) at a function in New Delhi.
- HURL is Joint Venture Company promoted by the three Maha Ratna Companies – Coal India Limited, NTPC Limited and Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

Report says STEM jobs raising in India

- One of the job sites, indeed released a report that jobs related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics have increased by 44% between November 2016 and November 2019.
- The report said that Delhi led the way with 31% of overall postings. It was also high in other Metros like Mumbai contributing to 21% of the posting, Bengaluru-14%, Pune-12%, Hyderabad-12% and Chennai-10%. The Western region of all part of India has the highest job postings of STEM.

Raisina Dialogue to be held New Delhi

- The Raisina Dialogue is to be held between January 14, 2020 and January 16, 2020. It is a multilateral conference that is held in New Delhi annually since 2016. The dialogue is organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and Observer Research Foundation.

Nitin Gadkari confer National Highways Excellence Awards

- The National Highways Excellence Awards will be conferred by the Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Shri Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi on 14 January 2020. The award by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways acknowledges the exceptional work that is done in various aspects of highway management.

World Sustainable Development Summit organized by TERI first time in New Delhi

- The World Sustainable Summit is an annual event organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). It is being organized since 2001. The event has become a premier international event focusing on developing actions.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

- The event is to be held between January 29, 2020 and January 31, 2020. This year, the event is being held at New Delhi. The theme of the event is Theme: ‘Towards 2030: Making the Decade Count’.

Indian Coast Guard commissions high speed interceptor boat in Mangaluru

- Indian Coast Guard commissioning a high-speed interceptor boat in Mangaluru on January 29. The water-jet-propelled vessel deployed for patrolling and rescue operations. The 500 nautical miles at 20 knots and is capable of doing speeds of up to 45 knots.
- The boat fitted with state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment which designed for high-speed interception close-coast patrol low-intensity maritime operations search-and-rescue, and marine surveillance.

Assam Rifles builds war memorial in Nagaland for 357 martyrs

- Assam Rifles constructed a combined war memorial in Nagaland for the 357 Army and Assam Rifles personnel killed. At the same time, fighting insurgency in the northeastern state. The monument was built at Mokokchung, which is also the cultural and intellectual center of Nagaland. Nagaland saw decades of rebellion, leading to loss of lives for the security forces and Naga insurgents.

NCRB launches two online national level services related to search of missing persons

- National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) launches Police Citizen centric services on the CCTNS platform. The Director, Intelligence Bureau, Shri Arvind Kumar, presided over the launch function.
- These online services will help citizens in searching their Missing Persons and Generating Vehicle NOC. The services can be accessed through ‘digitalpolicecitizenservices.gov.in’ portal or a link in the existing ‘Digital Police Portal.’

Horticulture output to be 313 million tonnes in 2019-20: First advance estimates

- Total horticulture production in 2019-20 is expected to be 313.35 million tonnes (mt), about 0.84 per cent higher than 2018-19, according to first advance estimates released.
- As per the final estimates, also released, the total horticulture production of the country in 2018-19 was estimated to be 310.74 mt, only marginally higher than the previous year.

Martyrs Day 2020: Remembering Mahatma Gandhi on his 72nd death anniversary

- In India, five days are declared as Martyrs Day in honour of those who laid down their lives for the nation. Of these, the first falls on January 30, the day when Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse in 1948.
- Mahatma Gandhi led the struggle for Independence that culminated in India getting freedom from British rule on August 15, 1947. Bapu, as he was lovingly called, played one of the most prominent roles in India’s freedom struggle through non-violence and peaceful methods.

Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO held in New Delhi

- Indian Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) was chaired by the Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal “Nishank”. UNESCO is United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. Along with the UNESCO commission, the event was also attended by the sub commissions namely Social Sciences, Culture, Education, Natural Sciences and Culture.

Indian Railways to roll out Automatic Identification and Data Collection

- The Indian Railways is to implement plans for RFID (Radio Frequency IDentification). The railways is to tag around 3,50,000 rolling stocks by 2021. Under the programme, around 3,500 coaches have been fitted with RFID so far. This will help the Indian Railways in early identification of rolling stock. A rolling stock includes carriages, locomotives, wagons and other vehicles used in Railways.

Surajkund Mela-International Crafts Fair organized by Haryana with HP as theme state

- President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the 34th Surajkund International Crafts Fair. The fair is being organized by the Haryana Government in Faridabad. Around 20 countries and the states of India are participating in the fair.
- The partner country of the fair is Uzbekistan. The theme state of the fair is Himachal Pradesh. This year the state of Himachal Pradesh will showcase its handicrafts, heritage and tourism potential.

Ficci survey projects FY20 GDP growth at 5%, to improve to 5.5% in FY21

- Industry body Ficci said its Economic Outlook Survey has projected the country’s annual median GDP growth for 2019-20 at 5 per cent, in line with the projections made by the National Statistical Organisation (NSO).
- The survey has put the median growth forecast for agriculture and allied activities at 2.6 per cent for 2019-20, the industry and services sector at 3.5 per cent and 7.2 per cent, respectively, during the current year.

India faces a talent shortage of 63 percent, says ManpowerGroup report

- India faces a talent shortage of 63 percent, higher than the global average, according to a new research report. The ManpowerGroup’s research report on Talent Shortage 2020 shows that globally 54 percent reported talent shortages almost doubled as compared to a decade ago.

World Book Fair, 2020 at New Delhi

- The New Delhi World Book Fair organized by the National Book Trust is being held for 42 years now. The trust is an apex body of Government of India functioning under Ministry of Human Resource Development.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

- The World Book Fair is to be held between January 4, 2020 and January 12, 2020. The fair is organized jointly by National Book Trust and India Trade Promotion Organization. More than 800 exhibitors and 40 foreign exhibitors are to participate in the fair.

India to set strict restrictions on non-essential imports from China

- Ministry of Commerce and industry has announced that 371 items from China will get strict restriction from March 2020. The move aims at curbing imports of non-essential items such as plastic goods, toys, furniture, sports.
- The rules are to be framed by the Ministry in coordination with BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards). Though the rules focus on Chinese imports, it will also be applicable to Indian producers in order to make the regulations WTO-compliant.

KVIC opened first silk processing plant in Gujarat

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) a first Silk Processing Plant inaugurated at Surendranagar in Gujarat. The cost of production of silk yarn increases the sale and availability of raw material for Gujarati Patola Sarees locally. The plant set up by a khadi institution at the cost of Rs 75 lakhs in which KVIC contributed Rs 60 lakh. The unit employed 90 local women.

Delhi first fully automated car park tower unveiled in Green Park

- Delhi Municipal Corporation inaugurated the city's first fully-automated car-parking tower facility at Green Park. The facility can accommodate at least 34 cars. The facility inaugurated by Union housing and urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas signs Contracts for 7 Blocks Awarded under Open Acreage Licensing Programme

- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas contracts for seven blocks, awarded under Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP) Bid Round – IV. The Government launched OALP Bid Round – IV on 27th August 2019. The Bid Round-IV offered seven blocks under International Competitive Bidding (ICB) process.
- The bidding closed on 31st October 2019. Seven blocks Around approved for award to ONGC, for which the Revenue Sharing Contracts have signed in the presence of the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.
- The total area awarded in the 7 Onland blocks is 18,510 sq.km. The blocks spread across three sedimentary basins.

PM Narendra Modi disburses 12,000 crore rupees to six crore farmers

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi electronically released 12,000 crore rupees under Pradhan Mantri Samaan Yojana to six crore farmers in Tumakuru. He awarded the Krishi Karman Award to the progressive farmers from 21 states.
- Tamil Nadu and Karnataka gave deep sea fishing boats and transponders that will help them to navigate in the deep sea. Prime Minister emphasized on agro exports, value-addition of produce, marketing, and doubling of farmers income by 2022.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

- The individual programs are launched for coffee, rubber, coconut, cashew, and pulses. The government is committed to improving irrigation facilities and providing skills to the agriculturists.

Union Government signed MoU with Flipkart company under DAY-NULM Scheme

- The Union Government of India signed MoU with Flipkart company for selling the products made by women self-help groups under the scheme Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM). Under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) scheme, self-help groups consisting of 44 lakh women working across the country, a move aimed at making women financially independent.

2636 EV Charging Stations sanctioned under Phase II FAME India

- The Department of Heavy Industries operating under Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises has sanctioned 2636 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations under FAME India scheme Phase II. The stations are to be set in 62 cities in 24 states and Union Territories.

Ministry of External Affairs creates “NEST” to increase investment coordination

- The Ministry of External Affairs is to set up a new division called NEST-New and Emerging Strategic Technologies. The division will work to increase investment coordination among the states of the country and also with the foreign countries.

SEBI modifies rating withdrawal norms for CRAs

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) tightened the noose around the corporates, saying if companies are not cooperating with credit rating agencies (CRAs) on disclosure of loan defaults, then the latter should issue INC (Issuer not cooperating) ratings.

The 15th Finance Commission held a meeting with the Goa state govt

- The 15th Finance Commission headed by Chairman, Shri N.K. Singh along with its Members and senior officials held meeting with the Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Pramod Sawant.
- The Goa State Government has been irregular in the constitution of State Finance Commission and not implemented recommendations of any two SFCs so far constituted in spite of having 190 Village Panchayats and 14 ULBs.

First e-waste clinic to be opened in Bhopal

- India's first e-waste clinic is to be inaugurated in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on 24 January. It was jointly set up by the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The e-waste clinic will be started on the basis of a three-month pilot project.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

DMMC, Munnan Singh won the 2020 Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar award

- Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2020 was announced on the occasion of Subhash Chandra Bose birth anniversary which was celebrated on 23 January 2020.
- Disaster Mitigation & Management Centre (DMMC), Uttarakhand under the institution category won the award. DMMC received a certificate and a cash prize of Rs.51 lakhs. The cash prize will be used by the winning institution for Disaster Management related activities only.

Election Commission to host 1st Sukumar Sen Memorial Lecture

- Election Commission will host the first Sukumar Sen Memorial Lecture. Former President Pranab Mukherjee will deliver the first of the Lectures. The EC has decided to institute an Annual Lecture Series as a tribute to the first Chief Election Commissioner of India, Sukumar Sen.
- He commendably conducted the first two General Elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, thereby putting India firmly on the map of democracy. AIR correspondent reports that the rationale behind instituting the lecture is to make a positive and constructive intervention in the democratic discourse of the nation within the constitutional mandate of the EC.

APEDA: Eight States finalise Agricultural Action Plan to boost Exports

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) announced that eight states namely Maharashtra, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Nagaland, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Karnataka finalised their action plan to boost agricultural exports.

MECOS-3, 2020: Global Marine Ecosystem Meet in Kochi

- The Marine Ecosystems-Challenges and Opportunities (MECOS), the third international symposium is to be held in Kochi. The symposium is conducted by the Marine Biological Association of India between January 7, 2020 and January 10, 2020.

GoI to confer first “Antarrashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman”

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will confer “Antarrashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman” to 30 media houses. The award is being presented for the first time. The aim of the award is to acknowledge positive role of media in disseminating outreach of Yoga.

2-day ‘Innovation Festival’ begins at Science Centre in Itanagar

- In Arunachal Pradesh, the two-day ‘Innovation Festival’ kicked off at the Science Centre. The festival is being organized by the Arunachal Pradesh State Council for Science & Technology in collaboration with the National Innovation Foundation.

NITI Aayog and Union Territory of Ladakh signed MoU for Development of Infrastructure Projects

- NITI Aayog entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the UT administration on 17 January 2020. The MoU NITI Aayog will be supporting the UT's administration through its crucial initiative Development Support Services to States for Infrastructure Projects (D3S-i). The MoU executed in the presence of NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant and Joint Secretary MC Jauhari.

DV Sadananda Gowda launches APNA UREA Sona Ugle brand of HURL

- Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda launched the APNA UREA – Sona Ugle brand of Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited (HURL) at a function in New Delhi. HURL HURL is a Joint Venture Company promoted by the three Maha Ratna Companies – Coal India Limited, NTPC Limited, and Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

Pariksha Pe Charcha 2020 to be held at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi

- Students teachers and parents across India are waiting for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's interaction program Pariksha Pe Charcha-2020. The event will be held at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi. The two thousand students, parents, and teachers will be participating from all over the country.

India's service sector activity growth hits 5-month high in December: PMI

- India's services sector activity gained momentum and touched a five-month high in December, supported by uptick in new business orders that boosted output as well as employment, a monthly survey showed.
- The IHS Markit India Services Business Activity Index improved from 52.7 in November to 53.3 in December, highlighting the second-strongest rate of increase in output in over a year, after July.

AI powered National Stock Exchange Knowledge Hub inaugurated in New Delhi

- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) knowledge Hub was inaugurated. The hub will assist insurance, banking and financial services. The hub has adopted the latest technology of Artificial Intelligence.
- The technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning are two major keys for India to become 1 trillion-dollar economy by 2035.

India's UJALA Programme completes 5 successful years

- Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) and LED Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) marked their fifth anniversary. The schemes were implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL). EESL is a joint venture of PSU operating under Ministry of Power.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Ministry of Steel to launch of Purvodaya, an Integrated Steel Hub

- Ministry of steel in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and JPC is organizing the launch of Purvodaya-Accelerated Development of Eastern Region through an Integrated Steel hub on 11 January 2020 at The Oberoi Grand Kolkata, West Bengal.
- The hub will be launched by the Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

National Youth Festival 2020 to be held in Lucknow

- The 23rd National Youth Festival (NYF) 2020 has been scheduled to be held from 12-16 January at Indira Pratishthan, Lucknow. The festival will be jointly inaugurated by Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath and Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Kiren Rijiju.

Wings India 2020 to be held in Begumpet Airport

- Wings India 2020 has been scheduled to be held at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad from 12-15 March 2020. The event is expected to boost aviation. The event is organized by Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) to provide a congenial forum to the rapidly changing dynamics of the sector Wings India 2020.

GAIC launched imported water-soluble fertilizers in Gujarat

- Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation (GAIC) launched imported water-soluble fertilizers in Ahmedabad. The move aims to encourage the use of high-grade agri-inputs in the state.
- **GAIC:**
- GAIC promotes agro-based industries in Gujarat.
- It imported 300 tonnes of water-soluble fertilizers from China.
- In this move, the role of GAIC will be to import, pack and sell the imported water-soluble fertilizers to the farmers through its network of dealers across the State.
- The new-generation fertilizers/water-soluble fertilizers will be sold in the market under its brand 'AGRO'.
- The water-soluble fertilizers that were launched include, AGRO NPK, AGRO CN, AGRO MKP, AGRO MAP, AGRO SOP, AGRO NOP.

CM Thackeray to launch the first girder for the Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link

- Maharashtra Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray is expected to launch the first girder for the Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link (MTHL) in January 2020.
- The estimated cost of the project is Rs.18,000 crore. The project is expected to be completed by 2022. Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link - The bridge will connect south Mumbai's eastern coast to Nhava Sheva on the mainland.

Power Ministry released the 2019 State Energy Efficiency Index

- Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in association with Alliance for Energy-Efficient Economy released the State Energy Efficiency Index 2019. The index used 97 significant indicators and tracked the progress of Energy Efficiency (EE) initiatives in 36 states and union territories (UTs). State Energy Efficiency Index 2019.
- Karnataka, HP, Haryana and Puducherry were the best performers according to the report. Manipur, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir were the least performers.

AAI reported that 4 Indian airports received international recognition

- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has announced 4 airports in India have received international recognition for reducing carbon emission. The airports had adopted the grading system in 2018 as per ACI.

The four airports are:

- 1) Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata
- 2) Biju Patnaik International Airport, Bhubaneswar
- 3) Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi
- 4) Trivandrum International Airport

GoI established I4C and a portal to deal cyber crimes

- The Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and a National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal. The centre was approved in October 2018 at a cost of 416 crores.

GoI to launch Purvodaya to accelerate Eastern India Development

- The Ministry of Steel announced that it will launch “Purvodaya”, a world class steel hub. The hub aims at an accelerated development programme of eastern states. The Ministry will be joined by CII (Confederation of India Industries) in the implementation of “Purvodaya”.

“Cyber AASHVAST” Cyber Crime Prevention Unit launched in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- Home Minister Amit Shah launched the country’s first Cyber Crime Prevention Unit called the “Cyber AASHVAST” in Gandhinagar. Along with AASHVAST, the Video Integration and State Wide Advance Security project called VISWAS was also launched.
- The Cyber AASHVAST is a unit that will act to prevent cyber crimes with the help of VISWAS and NETRANG.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Smriti Irani launches Yashaswini Scheme for Women entrepreneurship in Goa

- Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Textiles, Smriti Irani today launched Yashaswini Scheme for Women entrepreneurship in Goa. The event was held at Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium at Taleigao near Panaji.

Global Potato Conclave to be held in Gujarat

- The Global Potato Conclave is to be held between January 28 and January 31, 2020. PM Modi is to attend the conclave. PM Modi is to address the conclave. The conclave will include researchers from more than 30 countries and is to be conducted under 10 themes.
- It will cover next generation breeding practices, efficient management practices of potato cultivation, management strategies of potato diseases and pests.

India's first underwater Metro: To begin in March 2022 in Kolkata

- The first underwater Metro is being constructed in Hooghly river. The project is awaiting clearance of 2.8 million USD from the Indian Railways. The **Hooghly Metro** is one of the **oldest Metro in the country**. It was started in 1984.
- The new under water tunnel will carry 20% of city's population and will cross the river in less than a minute. Currently it takes 20 minutes in the ferry to cross the river and an hour to cross the Howrah bridge.

GoI new Target: Indian Railways to run 100% on electricity by 2024

- Union Minister Piyush Goyal announced that Indian Railways will run 100% on electricity by 2024. In such case, Indian Railways will be the first Railways to run 100% on electricity. Also, the Indian Railways has planned to make the network zero-emission network by 2030.
- Previously in 2019, the target to run 100% electrified Railways was set to be achieved by 2023. So far, till 2017-18, 4,087 km route had already been electrified. Upon success, the fuel bill will reduce by Rs 13,510 crores.

Assam tableau won first prize at 71st Republic Day parade

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh gave away Best Tableaux awards for Republic Day Parade 2020. The event took place in New Delhi. **Assam's tableau**, which portrayed the unique craftsmanship and culture of the state chosen as the **best tableau**, followed by Odisha and Uttar Pradesh tied for the second position. The Assam tableau showcased various dance forms of the country, especially the Bhortal dance of Assam.

Supreme Court allows centre to introduce African cheetah to suitable habitat in India

- Supreme Court allowed the Centre to introduce the African cheetah to suitable habitat in India. The court decision followed a petition filed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) seeking permission for the introduction of the African cheetah from Namibia as rare Indian cheetah is almost extinct in the country.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Bodo Peace Accord 2020

- The center government signed a peace agreement on January 2, 2020, with the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), one of the **dangerous militant groups in Assam**. The All Bodo Students Union (ABSU), agitating for a long time demanding Bodo state, also signed the deal.
- **Key Highlights of Bodo Accord**
 - The Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah, said on this occasion that the Central Government, Assam Government and representatives of Bodo have signed this historic agreement.
 - He said that this agreement will ensure the bright future of the people of Assam as well as the Bodo tribe.
 - He also said that the 1,550 Bodo members will surrender on January 30, 2020, with 130 weapons.
 - He ensured all the representatives that all the promises will be fulfilled in a time-bound manner.
 - Bodo tribes will get political and economic benefits after this agreement. The agreement will provide some political rights and some economic packages to the community.
 - According to the political pundits, the agreement will ensure the safety of Bodo language, cultural and regional matters.

Govt announces first ‘Antarrashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman’

- The Government of India has announced first ‘Antarrashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman’ for several media houses. This award was conferred on January 7, 2020, to 30 media houses. The objective behind this award is to bring positivity and acknowledge the role of media in the outreach of Yoga in the world.

Worlds highest railway bridge to be built by 2021 December

- The government has set a fresh deadline for the completion of the world’s highest railway bridge that connects Kashmir to the rest of India by December 2021. It is the most challenging project in the post-independent history of the Indian Railways.
- The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project is important in order to provide an alternative and reliable transportation system to Jammu and Kashmir. It will connect Kashmir Valley to the Indian Railways.

Cabinet approves to confer National Importance status to Gujarat Ayurveda University campus

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the PM Narendra Modi approved to confer the Institution of National Importance status to the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar. It will be given the status by conglomerating Ayurveda Institutes at Gujarat Ayurveda University campus, Jamnagar.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Cabinet approves India-Mongolia Agreement on exploration of outer space

- The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the agreement between India and Mongolia to explore outer space for civilian and peaceful purposes. The countries signed the agreement in September 2019.

Cabinet approves North East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the North East Gas Pipeline Grid. The pipeline is to be constructed for around 1,656 km. The gas pipeline grid is to be developed in eight states of the North East Region namely Manipur, Meghalaya, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland and Tripura.

Cabinet approves India's MoUs with UK, Sweden and BMGF

- The Union Cabinet approved Memorandum of Understandings India had signed with United Kingdom, Sweden and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). The BMGF agreed to work with the Ministry to strengthen health sector of the country. It focuses on reducing child mortality, morbidity, maternal mortality and neonatal mortality.

Cabinet approves strategic sale of Neelachal Ispat

- The Union Cabinet today approved a proposal to divest equity shares of four PSUs – MMTC, NMDC, BHEL and MECON – in Neelachal Ispat Ltd. The strategic buyer will be identified through a two-stage auction procedure.
- Neelachal Ispat is a joint venture company, in which four central public central enterprises – MMTC, NMDC, BHEL and MECON – and two state PSUs of Odisha government, IPICOL and OMC, are shareholders.

Workshop-cum-exhibition on “Bamboo- A wonder grass” concludes in Jammu

- The deliberations of the two-day workshop-cum-exhibition on Bamboo with the aim of creating opportunities for the sustainable development in Jammu and Kashmir concluded today at Jammu.
- The workshop-cum-exhibition was organized by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, North Eastern Council, Govt. of India and Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir through Cane and Bamboo Technology Center (CBTC), Guwahati, Assam and the Department of Social Forestry, Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir.

Bengaluru to host apparel sourcing expo

- The three-day International Apparel Sourcing Show will be held between February 20 and 22 at Hotel Sheraton Grand at Whitefield in Bengaluru. Organised by Apparel Resources, the event is expected to be a platform curated on the three pillars — opportunity, knowledge and inspiration.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

GoI: 6th Island Development Agency meeting held in New Delhi

- Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the sixth Island Development Agency meeting in New Delhi. The meeting focused on “Green Development in the Islands to reach new heights”. The meeting reviewed the work progress of the programme, “Holistic Development of Islands”.

Statue of Unity included in 8 Wonders of SCO; SCO heads meet: first time in India

- The Statue of Unity that was inaugurated by PM Modi in October 2018 has been included in 8 wonders of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization). The statue was a monumental tribute to Sardar Vallabhai Patel.

Indian Railways signs MoU with RailTel

- After successful completion of the Phase 1 execution of NIC e-office for 50,000 users in 58 units, Indian Railways has signed MoU with RailTel for the phase 2 of the project.
- In phase 2, RailTel will register 39,000 users over 34 Railway divisions in NIC e-office platform by 30th June 2020.

s 70,000 crore loan amount has been disbursed till Jan 13 under MSMEs scheme: Govt

- The Finance Ministry has said that a loan amount of nearly seventy thousand crore rupees has been disbursed till 13th of this month under the scheme of providing loan to Micro Small and Medium Enterprises – MSMEs within 59 minutes.

NIC organizes Tech Conclave in New Delhi on “Technologies for NextGen Governance”

- The National Informatics Centre (NIC) is to hold a 2-day technology Conclave in New Delhi. The event is to be conducted between January 21, 2020 and January 22, 2020. The Conclave is to be inaugurated by Union Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad.

National Agricultural Export Authority, APEDA launched 186 product testing laboratories

- The APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority) has added 135 laboratories to the existing 51 laboratories. With this initiative, the total number of agricultural product testing laboratories in the country has increased to 186.
- The new laboratories are being installed in states with high agricultural potential such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Karnataka.

Delhi Government releases Guarantee card on free bus services, water & electricity

- Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday released a “guarantee card” listing 10 promises, including free bus rides for students and deployment of “mohalla marshals” for women’s safety, that his AAP will fulfil if it is re-elected in Delhi.
- The card, “10 guarantees of Kejriwal”, also promises to continue the scheme for free electricity up to 200 units, free health facilities, to plant two crore saplings, clean Yamuna river and reduce pollution in Delhi over the next five year.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Fit India Cyclothon event was held in Goa

- Fit India Cyclothon event was held on 18 January 2020 in Goa. It was flagged off by Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju at the Campal Parade Ground and culminated at Bal Bhavan. Organized by: The Fit India Mission has been initiated under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

The 12th National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme began in Puducherry

- The 12th National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme began in Puducherry on 19 January 2020. The programme was inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor Dr. Kiran Bedi. The week-long programme is being jointly organized by the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and Puducherry Government.

World's largest meditation centre coming up in Hyderabad

- The world's largest meditation centre and the global headquarters of the Heartfulness Institute will be inaugurated on January 28. To mark the 75th anniversary of the organisation, Kanha Shanti Vanam will be dedicated to the first guide of Heartfulness, fondly called Lalaji by the present global guide Daaji.
- Baba Ramdev, the popular yoga guru, will be present on the occasion and address about 40,000 abhyasis or practitioners.

India's Federation Cup games moved from virus-hit China to Kazakhstan

- The Indian Federation Cup team today heaved a sigh of relief after the International Tennis Federation (ITF) shifted the Federation Cup matches from the Coronavirus-hit China to Kazakhstan.
- Concerned for its players' health due to a medical emergency in China, the All India Tennis Association (AITA) had written to the ITF, requesting the world governing body to consider either shifting the venue or postponing the tournament. The tournament was originally scheduled to be held in Dongguan from 4th of next month.

State Related Affairs

Fresh investment proposals worth Rs 6608 cr approved in Tamil Nadu

- In Tamil Nadu, fresh investment proposals worth 6608 crore rupees have been approved. They have been cleared by the higher-level committee on industrial guidance and single window system, led by the state chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswamy.

Venkaiah Naidu to inaugurate classical Telugu centre in Andhra's Nellore

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu is scheduled to inaugurate a new Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Telugu in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh on January 21.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

- “The establishment of this Centre at Nellore would facilitate to focus its activities for the development of this rich classical Telugu through Research, seminars, debates and various activities,” said an official statement.

Chapchar Kut festival to be celebrated on 6 March

- Mizoram is to celebrate festival Chapchar Kut on 6 March 2020. It is the biggest and most important festival of the Mizo. The meeting of the Chapchar Kut organizing committee was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Zoramthanga. The committee decided that the festival will be celebrated for two days. The pre-festival will be celebrated on 5 March

Telangana to test voter identification through a face recognition application

- The Telangana government is planning to test voter identification through a face recognition application on a pilot basis in the municipal elections of 23 January 2020. For the first time, the face recognition software will be used to ascertain the identity of voters in the state. The pilot basis test will be implemented in Kompally Municipality in Medchal Malkajgiri district for 10 polling stations.

Himachal Pradesh celebrates its 50th Statehood Day

- Himachal Pradesh is celebrating its 50th Statehood Day with fanfare and enthusiasm throughout the state today. It was on this day in 1971 when Himachal Pradesh was carved out as the 18th State of the country.

India’s first Super Fab Lab inaugurated in Kerala

- India’s first Super Fab Lab was inaugurated in Kerala. The laboratory is to function in collaboration with Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA. It is the only laboratory that is being installed outside US.
- The Super Fab Lab is being installed in collaboration with KSUM (Kerala Startup Mission). The laboratory will break down barriers between physical world and digital world.

Andhra Pradesh Cabinet passes resolution setting in motion process for abolishing state Legislative Council

- The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet passed a resolution setting in motion the process for abolishing the state Legislative Council. A similar resolution will now be adopted in the Legislative Assembly and sent to the Centre for necessary follow-up action.
- With just nine members, the ruling YSR Congress is in minority in the 58-member Legislative Council.

Maharashtra launches Rs 10 lunch plate scheme on pilot basis

- Shiv Sena-led Maharashtra government, launched its much-awaited ‘ Shiv Bhojan’ scheme, which is aimed at providing a meal to the poor for just Rs 10, on the occasion of the 71st Republic Day.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

- Under the scheme, which was launched on a pilot basis, thalis or lunch plates would be available to the people at designated centres/ canteens during a stipulated time in all the districts.

Andhra Pradesh Cabinet clears decentralised capital across Amaravati, Visakhapatnam and Kurnool

- Even as protests in Amaravati continue against the proposal for three capitals in Andhra Pradesh, the expert committee appointed by the government to decide the fate of the capital has announced its recommendations.
- Speaking to reporters, the head of the committee G Nageswara Rao said that the committee has suggested the government to set up three capitals in Amaravati, Kurnool and Visakhapatnam for different functions, as mentioned by Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy earlier this week.

The 13th annual edition of the Zee Jaipur Literature Festival began in Rajasthan

- The 13th annual edition of the Zee Jaipur Literature Festival is being held in at Diggil Palace, Jaipur, Rajasthan. The festival was inaugurated by Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. During the occasion, he released a book titled Bijji: Timeless Tales from Marwa written by Vishesh Kothari.

Madhya Pradesh govt made the reading of Preamble of Constitution mandatory in schools

- After Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, state government has made the reading of Preamble of the Constitution mandatory in schools on every Saturday. The Department of School Education stated that orders in this regard have been issued to District Education Officers.

First-ever carnival of peace and harmony held in Shillong as part of the week long Meghalaya Day Celebrations

- Meghalaya capital Shillong witnessed the First-ever carnival of peace and harmony as part of the week long Meghalaya Day Celebrations.
- Led by Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, the carnival procession passed through the busy streets of Shillong city showcasing different ethnic communities of the State and neighbouring regions

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches Virtual Police Station

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched a Virtual police station along with two other transformational projects of the Odisha Police. To reduce human interface with government offices.
- The three projects include Virtual Police Station, Road Accident Case Documents Module, and Medico-Legal Opinion System. These projects at a function at Lok Seva Bhawan. These initiatives would effectively reduce the necessity of citizens to visit police stations. This is the first transformation project under the 5T initiative, which the

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

police department is going to implement. The main objectives under the 5T is to reduce the necessity for the public to go to government offices.

Haryana dominates Wrestling by winning six gold medals in Khelo India Youth Games

- Haryana continues its dominance in wrestling at the 3rd Khelo India Youth Games in Guwahati. Haryana won six of the 11 gold. Maharashtra got three gold medals in wrestling and reached 150 marks on the medals tally with 42 golds overall. Haryana retained the second spot with 111 medals, including 36 gold. Delhi is third and Uttar Pradesh in the fourth position.

Kerala: the first state to pass anti-CAA resolution

- The Kerala Government on December 31, 2019, passed a resolution to rollback the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) that was passed during this winter session of Parliament. According to the Kerala Government, the CAA act contradicts the basic principles of Constitution.

Andhra Pradesh Government plans to deliver sand at door steps

- The Andhra Pradesh Government announced that it will deliver sand at customers' door steps. As a pilot project, the government is to begin the initiative on experimental basis.
- Under the new initiative, the government will collect transportation charges from the customers and deliver sand at door steps. In order to make the initiative successful, the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation will stock 15 lakh tons of sand per month for the next four months.

Assam state zoo first to breed endangered Hargila

- The Assam State Zoo cum Botanical Garden and Aaranyak has jointly attained a landmark achievement by successfully hatching a pair of Greater Adjutant chicks in an artificial platform within the zoo enclosure, in the first ever experiment of its kind.

Odisha bags Krishi Karman Award

- For the fifth time in a row Odisha has bagged Krishi Karman Award from the Centre for its overall food grain production in 2016-17.
- Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo received the "Commendation Award" in agriculture from Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Tumkur in Bengaluru.

Ritualistic festival 'Lai Haraoba' begins in Tripura

- In Tripura, Lai Haraoba, a ritualistic festival observed by Manipuri meitei communities since ancient times, began in Agartala last evening. The five day long festival is jointly organised by Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, Government of Tripura, Puthiba Lai Haraoba Committee and Puthiba Welfare & Cultural Society, Agartala.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

World largest meditation centre inaugurates in Telangana

- A one lakh capacity meditation center claimed to be the world's largest such facility was inaugurated at the global headquarters of the Heartfulness Institute and the Shri Ram Chandra Mission (SRCM) in Hyderabad. The center can accommodate one lakh meditation practitioner who was unveiled in the presence of Yoga guru Baba Ramdev and other dignitaries to mark the 75th anniversary of the formation of Ram Chandra Mission and Heartfulness Institute.

Gujarat government employees now get DA at par with central govt employees

- The Gujarat government hiked the dearness allowance (DA) by five percent. With this, the DA would be 17 percent on par with Central government employees. The hike will come into effect retrospectively from July 1, 2019.
- It will benefit 5.11 lakh employees and 4.5 lakh, pensioners. This month's salary paid with new DA, arrears of previous months would pay in a phased manner. The hike would put an additional burden of 1,821 crores on the state exchequer every year.

UP to set up a zoo named after Shaheed Ashfaqullah Khan

- Uttar Pradesh State government is to set up a zoological garden in Gorakhpur, UP. The zoo is to be named after the socialist and freedom fighter Shaheed Ashfaqullah Khan.
- The zoological garden will be spread across 121 acres in Gorakhpur. The state government has set aside Rs.234 crore to set up the zoological garden Ashfaqulla Khan: Khan was born on 22 October 1900 in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

“Cyber Safe Initiative” launched by Maharashtra Government

- Cyber Safe Initiative was launched by Maharashtra Government. The initiative was launched commemorating the birth anniversary of Indian Social Reformer Savitribai phule. Savitribai Phule was the first female teacher of India. The aim of the initiative is to spread awareness against atrocities committed against children and women.

West Bengal becomes 4th state to pass resolution demanding scrapping of CAA

- West Bengal became the fourth state to pass anti-CAA resolution on January 27, 2020. The West Bengal state government had introduced the resolution in the state assembly demanding that the controversial CAA law be repealed and NPR, NRC be withdrawn.
- Including West Bengal, four states have passed resolutions demanding the rollback of the citizenship amendment act. The other three states include **Kerala, Punjab and Rajasthan.**
- **Kerala** was the **first state to pass a resolution** demanding the withdrawal of the CAA law.

Arunachal Pradesh signs MoU with IUCN to red List Orchids

- Arunachal Pradesh has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the IUCN on 13 January in Arunachal Pradesh.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

- The MoU was signed by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Manmohan Singh Negi and the IUCN's country representative Dr. Vivek Saxena. The environment & forests department is the nodal department for executing the project.
- According to the MoU, the Arunachal Pradesh state government will collaborate with the IUCN and carry out a red-list assessment of the orchids in the state.
- The state has become the first state to initiate the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) red listing at the state level. The project will be spread across the state in 12 months. Many workshops on red list assessment will be conducted by experts from the IUCN.
- The IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species is a critical indicator of the health of the world's biodiversity. The list has been acting as a powerful tool to inform and catalyze action for biodiversity conservation and policy change. IUCN has projected that it is complexities to protect natural resources.

International Affairs

At 67,385, India records highest number of babies born globally on New Year's Day: UNICEF

- Nearly 4,00,000 babies were born around the world on New Year's Day with India recording the highest number of these births worldwide at 67,385, the UN children's agency said.
- An estimated 3,92,078 babies were born around the world on New Year's Day, according to UNICEF. Of this, an estimated 67,385 babies were born in India, the most globally. China comes in second with 46,299 births.

Palau is first country to ban 'reef toxic' sun cream

- The Pacific nation of Palau has become the first country to ban sun cream that is harmful to corals and sea life. Sun cream that includes common ingredients, including oxybenzone, is not allowed to be worn or sold in the country.
- Palau's President Tommy Remengesau said: "We have to live and respect the environment because the environment is the nest of life."

UNICEF terms past decade as 'Deadly' with 1,70,000 grave violations against children

- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) released its year-end report on December 31, 2019, which termed the past decade as a 'Deadly Decade' for children in conflict with more than 1,70,000 grave violations against children since 2010.
- The report revealed the number of grave violations against children increased almost three-fold since the beginning of the decade, amounting to almost 45 violations every single day. The report stated that since 1989, the number of countries experiencing conflicts increased and as a result the violations against children also increased.

2020 Designated as "Year of Nurse and Midwife"

- In the honor of 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the World Health Organization designated the year 2020 as the "Year of Nurse and Midwife".

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

- This year, WHO is to focus on nursing and midwifery in order to achieve Universal Health Coverage. The organization is leading the development of “World Nursing Report” that is to be launched in 2020.

World Future Energy Summit began on 13 January in Abu Dhabi

- The World Future Energy Summit began at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), Abu Dhabi on 13 January 2020. The theme of the summit is Rethinking Global Consumption, Production, and Investment. The event will be held from 13-16 January 2020 in ADNEC, Abu Dhabi.
- The four-day event includes exhibition and forum programs that address energy, solar, water, waste and smart cities. It also focuses on clean energy generation, water sustainability.

EU leaders signed UK withdrawal deal

- The heads of the European Commission and Council, Ursula von der Leyen and Charles Michel, signed the Withdrawal Agreement of the UK. The move comes ahead of the UK’s exit from the EU on 31 January 2020. Brexit ended 46 years of run in the European Union club. Queen Elizabeth II gave her assent to the Brexit on 23 January. It was also signed by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson on 25 January.

Brazilian President Bolsonaro arrived at New Delhi as chief guest on Republic Day

- Brazilian President Jair Messias Bolsonaro arrived at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi. He was received by President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 January 2020. Bolsonaro was invited as chief guest on Republic Day. He is on a four-day visit to India to explore ways to boost trade ties at a time both the large economies are hit by slowdowns.

China operationalised the world’s largest radio telescope, FAST

- China operationalized the world’s largest radio telescope in southwest China’s Guiyang city, the capital of Guizhou province. The FAST telescope is was launched after three years of trial operation. The Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical radio Telescope (FAST) telescope is with a diameter of half-a-kilometer. It is dubbed as China Sky Eye.

US signs 1st phase of trade deal with China; tariffs remain in place

- The US has signed the first phase of a trade deal with China, which President Donald Trump described as historic, concluding more than a year of tough negotiations including several months of suspension of talks between the two largest economies of the world.
- The first phase of the trade deal includes Intellectual Property (IP) Protection and Enforcement, ending forced technology transfer, dramatic expansion of American agriculture, removing barriers to American financial services, ending currency manipulation, rebalancing the US-China trade relationship and effective dispute resolution. The agreement was signed by President Trump and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, Politburo Member and Vice Premier of the People’s Republic of China.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

- Both sides so far have imposed additional tariffs on nearly USD half trillion worth of goods. So far, the US has imposed tariffs on more than USD 360 billion of Chinese goods, and China has retaliated with tariffs on more than USD 110 billion of US products.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev submits resignation

- Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has resigned. The Tass news agency said that Medvedev submitted his resignation to President Vladimir Putin. It said, President Putin thanked Mr. Medvedev for his contribution. The agency also reports that Mr. Putin will name Mr. Medvedev as deputy of the presidential Security Council. Russian President asked Medvedev's Cabinet to keep working until the new Cabinet is formed.

Russia to begin Gaganyaan space astronauts training by 2020 January

- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh announced that the training for Gaganyaan space astronauts will start their training from the third week of January 2020. The training of the Indian astronauts for India's first human space mission will take place in Russia. India has selected four astronauts for the human space mission.
- They will be trained in crew and service modules designed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), learn to operate it, work around it and do simulations. Bahubali GSLV Mark-III, India's heaviest launch vehicle, will be expected to carry astronauts to space. The Union Cabinet approved Rs.10,000 crores for the Gaganyaan project.

Henley Passport Index launched

- Recently, Henley Passport Index was launched. The index was launched based on the data collected from International Air Transport Association (IATA). Around 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations were considered to launch the index. The Index is based on the number of destinations their holders can access without visa.
- According to the index, Japan has the world's strongest passport. Japan has been holding top rank position for the past 3 years. Japan was followed by Singapore, Germany, South Korea at second, third and fourth places respectively. US and UK have been falling places for two year are now in eighth position. India ranked closer to the bottom at rank 84.
- UAE was the historic performer of Henley Passport Index 2020. UAE has jumped 47 places in the past 10 years. It is currently at 47th position.

GoI launches Saksham, a mega campaign on fuel conservation

- The Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) operating under Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas will launch fuel conservation campaign. will create awareness among public about fuel conservation. PCRA has been conducting Saksham campaigns in different parts of the country.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

- This year, the campaign will create awareness about the following PCRA has developed energy efficient burners for gas stoves. It will provide messages on “Pollution ka Solution”. In collaboration with NCERT, PCRA has prepared a comic book on the theme, “Fuel Conservation”. The books are to be distributed at the campaigns. The books are also available in E-Pathshala.

WEF: Global Risks Report, 2020

- On January 15, 2020, the World Economic Forum released its Global Risks Report. Under the report, the Forum has identified the global risks.
- The top 5 Global risks according to the report are as follows
- The Forum reported that Climate-related risks had the greatest likelihood of severe impacts.
- The other threats include geopolitical turbulence. The retreat from multilateralism has threatened the ability of the world to deal the global risks.
- The current economic stagflation according to the report will increase. This might even lead to increased social issues, protests, increased populists movements.
- Though the Digital Technology is in its peak of evolution, the unequal access of the technology across the globe will increase.
- The social demographic, environmental and technological pressure on health systems is growing.

Corona virus: WHO increases global risk from moderate to high

- World Health Organization arrived in China to discuss the ways the Corona Virus is spreading. The death toll due to the virus has reached 106 and around 4,000 people have been infected so far.

Aunties, uncles, tube lights among 26 new Indian words in Oxford dictionary

- Aunties, uncles and tube lights have made it to the latest edition of the world’s best selling dictionary, Oxford with 26 new Indian English words being added to a total of 384 existing ones.
- The 384 words in the 10th edition of the Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary come with an Indian English label, including 22 new additions in print and 26 in the online edition. These include headwords and also some individual meanings or idioms.
- However, the Oxford Dictionaries Hindi Word of the Year for 2018 – Nari Shakti.

Myanmar-China sign 33 deals of BRI: Increases China’s ease of access of Indian Ocean

- China and Myanmar signed 33 new deals under BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) to implement China-Myanmar Economic Corridor. Also, a concession agreement was signed by the countries to implement the deep seaport project called Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone.
- The agreements were signed to strengthen the collaboration in infrastructure sector that includes rail connectivity, roads and power interconnection projects.

Neutral pronoun ‘they’ voted Word of the Decade

- Neutral pronoun ‘they’ has been voted word of the decade by US language experts, beating out other contenders.
- “They” is used in English by a growing number of non-binary individuals, people who do not identify as either male or female. They prefer the plural neutral pronoun to bypass using the pronouns “he” or “she”.

Dhaka International Film Festival begins

- The 18th Dhaka International Film Festival was inaugurated on Saturday by the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen.
- The festival kicked off with the screening of the Spanish-Greek film Window to the Sea, directed by Miguel Angel Jimenez, at Bangladesh National Museum (BNM). During the festival 220 films from 74 countries will be screened across various venues in Dhaka between 11-19 January.

Russia urges Iran and US to wind down tensions

- Russia’s acting Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov urged Iran and United States to wind down tensions after Iranian forces accidentally downed a Ukrainian passenger jet. The tragedy was a severe red flag and a signal that everyone should start working on de-escalation. Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has defended the country’s armed forces after it admitted shooting down the plane by mistake.

1 trillion USD required to achieve UN’s Decarbonization Target of Shipping Industry

- The United Nations had set the target of reducing carbon emissions from shipping industry by 50% by 2050 as compared to the levels in 2008. A study of London based Energy Institute (University College London’s Energy Institute) suggest that in order to achieve the target, the world has to spend 1 trillion USD.

PETA-funded project takes early steps to create humane source of diphtheria antitoxin

- The first steps have been taken towards ending the use of horses in India and other countries in the creation of antitoxins used to treat diphtheria, said the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).
- The reference is to the creation of recombinant human antibodies capable of blocking the poisonous toxin that causes diphtheria. These new antibodies are derived from a non-animal source, a progressive departure from existing practices, were it was got from horses.

UK launches 4-mn pound Innovation Challenge Fund in India

- The UK government has launched 4 million pound (about Rs 37 crore) fund in India to support collaborative research into emerging technologies. Innovation Challenge Fund will encourage industry and academia to collaborate and develop tech solutions for social, economic and environmental challenges in India, a statement said.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

- The initiative is focused on two major tech clusters: artificial intelligence/ data in Karnataka and future mobility in Maharashtra.

Britain unveils 50-pence coin minted to mark Brexit

- Britain unveiled a new 50-pence coin minted to mark the country's departure from the European Union, which bears the inscription "**Peace, prosperity and friendship with all nations**" and the Brexit date of "31 January 2020.

Nepal creates Guinness World Record for highest altitude fashion show event

- Nepal has set an all-new Guinness World Record for the highest altitude fashion show event. Mount Everest Fashion Runway organized by RB Diamonds and KASA Style in support of the Nepal Tourism Board held at 5340 meters (17515 ft) elevation at Kala Patthar near the Everest base camp on January 26.
- The event part of the Visit Nepal Year 2020 campaign of the Nepal Tourism Board. Various Models from various parts of the world including Finland, Italy, Sri Lanka, and Singapore, participated in the show. The main aim behind the fashion gala was to raise awareness about climate change as well as to promote sustainable fashion

Foreign Relation

India extends USD 75 mn line of credit for solar parks in Cuba

- India has extended a line of credit of USD 75 million (over Rs 500 crore) to Cuba for financing solar parks. An agreement signed between Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) and Banco Exterior De Cuba in July last year came into effect from December 12, the RBI said in a statement.
- Banco Exterior De Cuba is a nominated agency of the Government of Cuba.

Electric vehicles are future of India Elecrama conference at Noida

- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar explained that the electric vehicles are the future of the country as they are eco-friendly and helpful in the reduction of carbon footprint. The fourteenth edition of Elecrama – a conference for discussion on new trends and innovation for energy transition at Greater Noida.

India to set up Maritime Research Coordination Centre in Sri Lanka

- Indian National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval met Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. He discussed setting up of maritime research coordination centre in the country. The establishment of research centre is important to learn maritime activities in the Indian Ocean Region.

First Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre was established in Africa

- The first convention centre was established in Africa by India to honour the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. The Centre was jointly inaugurated by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou. Mr. Jaishankar is on his state

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

visit to the West African country, Niger. He is the first Indian Foreign Minister to visit the West African country.

Ganga-Volga Dialogue held with Russia to enhance Connectivity

- The Ganga-Volga Dialogue was held between India and Russia in New Delhi. The dialogue focused in providing interface between the civilizations of the countries. The Dialogue also focused on Digital Connectivity, culture, tourism, healthcare, manufacturing technology, economy, entrepreneurship, etc. The aim of the dialogue is very similar to the International North-South Transport Corridor.

First session of India-Norway DIT was held in New Delhi

- The first Session of India-Norway Dialogue on Trade & Investment (DTI) was held in New Delhi on 15-16 January 2020. The session was co-chaired by Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Nidhi Mani Tripathi, and Director General, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Mr. Erling Rimestad.

India Russia to sign MoUs on AK-203 assault rifles

- The Indian Army will sign MoU with Russia to procure AK-203 assault rifles. According to the deal, around 1 lakh rifles are to be received directly from Russia and the rest will be manufactured in India.
- The rifles will be manufactured at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh by a joint Venture (JV) called Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL). Of the JV, 50.5% is to be owned by India and 49.5% by Russia.

India attends Hormuz Peace Initiative

- India recently attended the Hormuz Peace Initiative that was held in Tehran. The initiative aimed at stabilizing one of world's busiest shipping lanes, the Strait of Hormuz amidst US-Iran tensions. It was attended by leading trade partners of Iran namely China, Oman, India and Afghanistan.

India, Bangladesh sign MoU for content exchange programme between All India Radio and Bangladesh Betar

- India signed an Memorandum of Understanding with Bangladesh for content exchange programme between All India Radio and Bangladesh Betar. An MoU between National Film Development Corporation, India and Film Development Corporation, Bangladesh, was also signed.
- The MoUs were signed in the presence of Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar and Bangladesh Information Minister Muhammad H Mahmud in New Delhi.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

India signed MoU with Finland to deepen defence cooperation

- India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Finland on 15 January 2020. The MoU was signed by Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence of Finland Mr. Jukka Juusti. The MoU is signed on the sidelines of Raisina Dialogue 2020. The MoU is aimed at further defence cooperation between India and Finland.

India, Bangladesh signs to upgrade Ashuganj-Akhaura road

- India and Bangladesh signed an agreement to upgrade Ashuganj-Akhaura road into a 4-lane highway on 24 January. The agreement aim is to upgrade the 50.58 kilometre long road between Ashuganj river port and the Akhaura land port in Bangladesh into a 4-lane highway.
- The project is aimed to boost connectivity between the North-eastern part of India and Bangladesh. It will facilitate sub-regional connectivity among South and South-east Asian countries.

Ranks & Indices

India first time ranks among top ten in Climate Change Performance Index

- India for the first time ranks among the top ten in the Climate Change Performance Index, CCPI, which goes further to prove that all efforts and activities being currently undertaken by the government are setting a tone of vast improvements.
- Government aims to increase the share of non-fossil fuels to 175 GigaWatt by 2022 and further take it to 450 GW. AIR correspondent takes a look at the major initiatives taken by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Mirabai ranked eighth in latest Olympic qualification rankings

- Former world champion Mirabai Chanu maintained her eighth spot released by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF). The Olympic qualification competes in the 49kg category gathered 2966.6406 ranking points.
- Chanu improved her performance in 2019. She lifted 86kg in snatch and a personal best of 113kg in clean and jerk for a total of 199kg at the Asian Championships in April.

India ranked fifth-biggest geopolitical risk of 2020 by Eurasia Group

- Eurasia Group reported that India is one of the world's top geopolitical risks for 2020. The political risk consultancy India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi was listed as the fifth biggest geopolitical risk of 2020.

Hyderabad, Bengaluru top two among most dynamic cities in the world, Delhi 6th in the list

- Technology hub Hyderabad has edged out 129 other cities in the world to emerge as the world's most dynamic city, according to the seventh edition of the City Momentum Index by global real estate services firm JLL.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

- The city has pushed Bengaluru to second place to regain the top position after a gap of one year. Chennai is at fifth and Delhi is at sixth place.

Gujarat ranked top for water efficiency Delhi among worst performing states

- Gujarat ranked the best for parameters on efficiency targets in the review of state and Central government water departments by the ministry of Jal Shakti. Rajasthan is the third-best, and Delhi is among the worst-performing states, according to the ranking for 2019 circulated to different state governments recently.
- The seven Central departments reviewed, the Survey of India, got the top billing followed by the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) and Central Water Commission. The Central Pollution Control Board, the country's pollution watchdog, has got the lowest rank in the ranking for the year 2019.
- Telangana got the top slot, and this year's topper, Gujarat, was ranked seventh last time. Delhi. Among the states that significantly improved its ranking was Tamil Nadu.

India ranked 5th in the CDP India annual report

- India ranked 5th in the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) India annual report. The non-profit organization surveyed among the countries for corporate commitments to science-based targets (SBT).
- The report identified that the investors demand better disclosure of climate change risk from Indian companies. The report examined the carbon reduction activities of the selected companies

India ranked 80th in the 2019 Corruption Perceptions Index

- India ranked 80th in the global Corruption Perceptions Index 2019 (CPI-2019). In 2018, India ranked 78th in the index.
- The index released by Transparency International. The report considered revealed that a majority of countries showed little to no improvement in tackling corruption against the previous report. It considered 13 surveys and expert assessments to measure public sector corruption in 180 countries.

China Ranked World's Second Largest Arms Producer Trailing Behind US

- China has leapfrogged Russia to become the world's second-largest arms producer, according to revised research for the year 2017 published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- SIPRI had previously excluded Chinese arms companies from its annual ranking over a lack of transparency, placing Russia second behind the United States in weapons production in 2017.

Japan topped the 2020 Henley Passport Index

- Henley Passport Index 2020 launched recently by Henley & Partners. India ranked 84th in the index. Japan has the world's strongest passport. The index was based on the data collected from the International Air Transport Association (IATA). In the index, around 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations were considered.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Bengaluru Has World's Worst Traffic, 4 Indian Cities In Top 10: Report

- India has topped the TomTom Traffic Index 2019 with 4 of its cities amongst the 10 most congested cities globally. Bengaluru (71%), Mumbai (65%), Pune (59%) and New Delhi (56%) ranks 1st, 4th, 5th and 8th respectively.
- The other global cities featured amongst the top 10 include Manila from the Philippines, Bogota from Colombia, Moscow from Russia; Lima from Peru, Istanbul from Turkey, and Jakarta from Indonesia.

NITI Aayog's Aspirational District Ranking released: Chandauli of UP tops

- NITI Aayog released the ranking of Aspirational Districts of the country for the month of December 2019. The ranking is released every month. The Chandauli district of UP topped the list followed by Bolangir of Odisha, YSR (AP) in second and third positions respectively.
- Sahibganj of Jharkhand and Hailakandi of Assam were placed in fourth and fifth places. The rankings were done for 112 aspirational districts. The districts were selected from six developmental areas in December 2019.

Transparency International: Assam tops in budget formulation

- According to the survey conducted by Transparency International, Assam tops in terms of budget formulation followed by Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The states that were ranked lower in terms of budget formulation are Goa, Maharashtra and Punjab.
- The survey was conducted by the organization based on four parameters such as budgetary process, public disclosure, post budget fiscal management and efforts to make budget citizen friendly.

UN Development Programme: Telangana tops sustainable growth goals performer list

- According to the United National Development Programme (UNDP), Telangana has emerged the best performing states in terms of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). It is to be noted that in December 2019, India released SDG India Index. India was the first country to release SDG index. The index was launched by NITI Aayog.
- Telangana topped the UNDP ranking of Indian states based on their progress in achieving SDGs. The state of Telangana scored 82. It was followed by states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka together with a score of 72. However, Kerala followed by Himachal Pradesh lead the list.

Business

Reliance JioMart launched

- The Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) launched JioMart, a new online grocery platform on December 31, 2019.
- JioMart brings Reliance industries in direct competition with other major e-commerce players such as Flipkart and Amazon. The new e-commerce platform has been initially launched for customers in Navi Mumbai, Thane and Kalyan.

Adani to buy 75% stake in Krishnapatnam Port

- India's largest private sector port operator agreed to buy a 75% stake in Krishnapatnam Port Co. Ltd (KPCL) at an enterprise value of 13,500 crores, APSEZ. Krishnapatnam Port The Krishnapatnam Port is located in southern Andhra Pradesh and is a multi-cargo facility.
- It handled 54 million tonnes (mt) of cargo in the year ended 31 March 2019. The purchase will accelerate the Adani Ports plan to expand its cargo-handling capacity to 400mt by 2025.

PayPal unveils Adoption Assistance Programme

- Digital payments player PayPal has unveiled a new adoption assistance programme aimed at enhancing the parental support benefits for employees, the company said here on Friday.
- "The new policy will offer financial support of upto Rs one lakh per adoption for adoptive parents. This covers reimbursement of adoption expenses such as CARA registration, child placement, foster care and establishment of legal guardianship", a press release said.

IOCL signed MoU with Ghana to implement Ghanas National LPG Promotion Policy

- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Ghana's National Petroleum Authority (NPA) on 23 January 2020 at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The MoU was signed by Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan witnesses media signing of an MOU on LPG cooperation with National Petroleum Authority (NPA) and Ministry of Energy (Petroleum) Ghana

Siemens to acquire C&S Electric for Rs 2,100 crore

- Siemens India has agreed to acquire Delhi-based electrical and electronic equipment maker C&S Electric for cash consideration of Rs 2,100 crore in its biggest acquisition in the country till date outside the group.
- The deal will help Siemens strengthen position as a supplier of low-voltage power distribution and electrical installation technology in the country. "Joining forces with C&S Electric allows us to bring a more comprehensive portfolio that addresses needs

Tech Mahindra set up Google Cloud Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad

- IT services major Tech Mahindra to set up a dedicated Google Cloud Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Hyderabad. Aim To drive the digital transformation of enterprises globally. It will provide enterprises with access to the technology and services and deliver solutions to help them move critical workloads to Google Cloud, develop their Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics solutions, and improve workplace productivity.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Flipkart former CEO Sachin Bansal acquires DHFL General Insurance for Rs 100 crore

- Flipkart co-founder and former CEO Sachin Bansal has reportedly acquired DHFL General Insurance from Wadhawan Group Capital (WGC) for around Rs 100 crore. The deal is seen as a distress sale for Kapil Wadhawan-led financial services group, which used to run the debt-laden DHFL.

Wipro CEO Abidali Neemuchwala steps down

- Wipro said its CEO Abidali Neemuchwala has resigned due to family commitments, a year before his term was scheduled to end, but that he would stay on until a successor was appointed. Analysts say a slew of internal candidates could be in the running.
- Neemuchwala joined Wipro from TCSNSE in April 2015 as Group President and COO. He was elevated to CEO in February 2016. Neemuchwala's term at Wipro was due to end on Jan 31, 2021.

OPPO collaborates with IIT-H for multiple projects

- OPPO, a global smartphone brand, is collaborating with IIT Hyderabad to promote research in the field of science and technology. An MoU was signed by Tasleem Arif, Vice President and Head (R&D), OPPO India and Dr. Sumohana S. Channappayya, Dean (Research and Development), IIT Hyderabad.
- It envisages joint research and development for multiple projects over a period of two years for the development of new technologies in areas specific to camera and image processing, battery, networks (5G), system performance and Artificial Intelligence, among other areas.

NATHEALTH and AHPI sign MoU to share knowledge and resources in healthcare sector

- NATHEALTH has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Association of Healthcare Providers (India) (AHPI) to boost information sharing, public-private partnership (PPP) and advocacy to collaborate and achieve quality healthcare for all citizens in India.
- This brings together a network of over 15,000 hospitals, labs and diagnostics chains, healthcare service providers, equipment manufacturers, investors, knowledge partners, technology providers and innovators into a unified platform.

IndianOil, OIL tie up for CO2-assisted enhanced oil recovery

- IndianOil and Oil India Ltd (OIL) have signed an agreement to collaborate on a CO2-assisted Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) project in Assam. The two will develop Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) as an effective emissions mitigation tool to combat climate change.

Amazon to invest 1 billion USD in India

- Amazon.com chief Jeff Bezos announced USD 1 billion over Rs 7,000 crore investment in India to help bring small and medium businesses online and committed to exporting

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

USD 10 billion worth of India-made goods by 2025. The online retail giant committed USD 5.5 billion investments in India – Amazon’s most important market outside of the US and a key growth driver.

Defence News

General Bipin Rawat proposes integrated Air Defence Command for armed forces

- Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat issued directions to prepare a roadmap to create an Air Defence Command to enhance the security of India’s skies. The areas identified for bringing in tri-services jointness and synergy include setting up of common logistics support pools where two or more services have their presence.
- The CDS will have a crucial role in ensuring optimum utilization of allocated budget, ushering in more synergy in procurement, training, and operations of the services through joint planning and integration.

Oman ships arrive to participate in Indo-Oman bilateral Naval Exercise “Naseem Al-Bahr”

- Two Oman ships arrived in Goa to participate in “Naseem-Al-Bahr”, the Indo-Oman bilateral naval exercise. RNOV are Royal Navy of Oman Vessels. RNOV al Rasikh and RNOV Khassab arrived at Goa. Along with these ships, Indian Naval Ships Shubhadra and Beas will also participate in the exercise. The Indo-Oman Naval Exercises are being conducted since 1993.

Operation Sankalp: Indian Navy commences maritime security operations for merchant vessels in Strait of Hormuz

- The Indian Navy said that they have commenced security operations called ‘Operation Sankalp’ in order to ensure safe passage of Indian Flag Vessels through the Strait of Hormuz.
- The operation is being progressed in close coordination with all stakeholders including the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the official statement said. “Regular inter-ministerial meetings have been held to review the evolving maritime security situation in the Gulf region.”

DRDO’s Naval variant of Light Combat Aircraft makes its first successful landing

- The naval version of indigenous Light Combat Aircraft, LCA, made its first successful landing on the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya today. This aircraft is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization, DRDO.

DRDO to display indigenously-developed military systems in 2020 DefExpo

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is to display various indigenously-developed military systems and technologies in the forthcoming DefExpo 2020. It aims to bring alive the spirit of self-reliance and national pride.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

- DefExpo2020: The 11th edition of the biennial Defexpo has been scheduled to be held at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh from 5-9 February 2020. The theme of the DefExpo2020 is “Digital Transformation of Defence”.

LCA Tejas: The First Indigenous Aircraft to make an arrested Landing

- The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Tejas successfully landed on INS Vikramaditya. With this achievement, the LCA becomes the first aircraft to make an arrested landing on a naval ship.
- The DRDO (Defence Research Development Organisation) made LCA became the first indigenously made aircraft to land on an aircraft carrier.

GoI to acquire 200 aircraft for Air Force

- Centre is planning to acquire around 200 aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF). The aim is to cope with the depleting aerial inventories of IAF. The announcement about the acquisition was made by the defence secretary Ajay Kumar.
- IAF is also in a move to finalize a contract for 83 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mark 1 A as the contract for Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)-manufactured 83 LCA Tejas Mark 1 A advanced fighter jets are about to be completed.

Captain Tania Shergill to be the first woman parade adjutant for the Republic Day parade

- Captain Tania Shergill has been selected to be the first woman parade adjutant for the Republic Day parade. The parade adjutant is responsible for the parade. In the 2019 Republic Day parade, Captain Bhavna Kasturi was the first woman officer to lead an all-men contingent. Captain Tania Shergill is an officer with the Army's Corps of Signals.

Indian Navy launches Operation Vanilla to provide disaster relief at Madagascar

- Indian Navy launches Operation Vanilla to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief at Madagascar.
- **Operation Vanilla** –
- Operation Vanilla launched to provide assistance to the affected population of Madagascar post devastation caused by Cyclone Diane. The port call, the ship in coordination with Embassy of India and Government of Madagascar is planned to undertake relief operations to assist the flood-affected populace.

CSIR partners with DRDO to produce the Saras engine

- The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has partnered with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to produce the Saras engine. Collaboration - CSIR will take up the project jointly designing and developing an aero-engine which is a highly complex task.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Indian Army conducted the Exercise Winged Raider

- The Indian Army conducted the airborne Exercise Winged Raider in the North-Eastern theatre on 10 January 2020. It is the Army's biggest airborne exercise. It comprises of more than 500 special forces troops. It was conducted from 6-10 January.
- Exercise Winged Raider: Before the exercise, a series of preparations including the movement of special forces and rallying up of transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force was held from 6 January.

Industrial Meet of 'Wings India'-Asia's largest Civil Aviation Event held at Bengaluru

- The Industrial meet of the Asia's largest Civil Aviation was held in Bengaluru. The Civil Aviation event is to be held at Begumpet airport, Hyderabad in March 2020. The theme of the event will be Theme: Flying for All

India successfully test-fires nuclear-capable K-4 Ballistic Missile

- India successfully test fired nuclear-capable, K-4 ballistic missile off the coast of Andhra Pradesh on January 19, 2020. It has a strike range of 3500km.
- The K-4 ballistic missile was launched from an underwater platform in the sea. It can be launched from a submarine. It will be deployed on the fleet of the Arihant Class nuclear submarines being built by India.
- The missile was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Defence Ministry approved procurement of 5,100 crores of hardware

- Defence Acquisition Council approved the Procurement of defence equipment that are of worth Rs 5,100 crores. The equipment are to be purchased from indigenous sources.
- The equipment to be purchased include electronic Warfare systems that are manufactured by DRDO. It also includes other equipment that are manufactured by local Indian industries.

Pakistan conducts training launch of Ghaznavi missile

- Pakistan conducted successful training launch of surface-to-surface Short Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM) Ghaznavi, capable of delivering multiple types of warheads upto a range of 290 kilometers, the ISPR said.
- The training launch carried at an undisclosed location was part of field training exercise of the Army Strategic Forces Command (ASFC) aimed at rehearsing operational readiness procedures during day and night.

GRSE set to deliver ASW corvette INS Kavaratti to Indian Navy

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) set to deliver anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kavaratti. Kavaratti is the last of the four Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes built for the Indian Navy under Project P28. The trials of the ship completed and we plan to deliver it by this month. Kavaratti will be the 104th ship to be constructed and provided by the GRSE.

SAMPRITI-IX: India-Bangladesh Joint Military Exercise to be held in Meghalaya

- A Joint Military Exercise between India and Bangladesh is to be held at Umroi, Meghalaya between 3rd February, 2020 and 16th February, 2020. The exercise is called “SAMPRITI”.
- During the joint exercise, Command Post Exercise and Field Training Exercise is to be conducted according to United Nations Charter. The troops of both the armies will also practice Counter Terrorist operation.

DRDO on setting up technology centre at Gujarat University

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is exploring the possibility of setting up a center for advanced defence technology at the Gujarat University’s upcoming Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Extension and Research and Innovation (CERI).
- Gujarat Education Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama was the guest of honor expressed disappointment that in the world’s top 200 universities, there is none from India.

Science and Technology

ISRO to launch GSAT-30 satellite

- The Indian Space Research Organization will launch GSAT-30 satellite on the launch vehicle Ariane-5. It is to be launched in Ariane Launch Complex at Kourou. Kourou is a French territory that is located along the north eastern coast of South America.

NCCS scientists find new microbial species, name it after DBT Secretary

- The Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan is India’s largest inland salt lake. Being a hypersaline ecosystem — one with very high salt concentrations, it is likely to harbour hitherto unknown microbial communities.
- The dearth of studies on archaea from the Sambhar lake prompted scientists at the National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune, to take on the challenge of exploring this lake for archaea, which led them to discover a novel archaeal species, *Natrialba swarupiae*.
- They named the species after Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, **for her role in simplifying provisions of the Biodiversity Act, 2002 to ease the deposition of microorganisms in repositories for microbes**(culture collections) located outside India.

NASA spacecraft breaks its own record with another swing by the sun

- NASA’s Parker Solar Probe took one step closer to the sun when it executed its fourth flyby of our star. This is the first such maneuver called a perihelion that the spacecraft

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

has completed since swinging past Venus in December, a move that shrank the probe's orbit.

- The Parker Solar Probe's trajectory carried the warhead within about 11.6 million miles (18.6 million kilometers) of the sun, more than 3 million miles (5 million km) closer than previous flybys.

ISRO to set up second launch port in Thoothukodi district of Tamilnadu for small satellite launch vehicles

- Indian Space Research Organisation will establish a second launch port in Thoothukodi district in Tamilnadu exclusively to launch small satellite launch vehicles. Speaking to media persons in Bengaluru, ISRO Chairman K Sivan informed that this will come up in 2300 acres.

Four Men from Indian Air Force Selected to Undergo Training in Russia for Gaganyaan Mission: ISRO Chief

- Four men from the Indian Air Force have been selected to undergo training for India's first human spaceflight mission, ISRO chief K Sivan said as he declared 2020 as the year of Gaganyaan and Chandrayaan-3.
- Addressing a press conference at the ISRO headquarters here, Sivan said the four astronauts will undergo training in Russia from the third week of January, but did not reveal their names.

“Vyom Mitra”-ISRO's half Humanoid-An experimental mission of Gaganyaan

- ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) is to send a half-humanoid robot called the “Vyom Mitra” as an experimental mission to Gaganyaan. Vyom Mitra means a friend in Sky.
- ISRO introduced Vyom Mitra at the “Human Space Flight and Exploration-Present Challenges and Future Trends” seminar that was held in Bengaluru. The robot is to fly in two unmanned mission that are planned in December 2020 and in June 2021.

ISRO sets up academic centre in Karnataka to provide 2 crore

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) set up a regional academic center for space at the National Institute of Technology (NITK) at Surathkal in Karnataka's southwest Dakshina Kannada district.
- The center at NIT-K will conduct joint research and development in space technology applications to meet the needs of our space programs. ISRO will provide two crore grants annually to NIT for the R&D projects and promotional activities throughout the year.

Project NETRA: ISRO Signs pact to set up optical Telescope

- The Indian Space Research Organization signed a pact with Indian Institute of Astrophysics to establish an optical telescope under “Project NETRA”. The organisation also tied up with NIT-Karnataka to set up a regional academic centre for space to promote research and development.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Corona Virus: A new strain of virus found in China

- China reported the first death in the country due to pneumonia caused by a new virus that is of outbreak in the city of Wuhan. The Chinese scientists discovered that the new strain of virus is that of the corona virus.

Study on Parkinson's disease gets \$2.3 m

- A genome-wide association study (GWAS) on Parkinson's Disease, said to be one of the largest in the country, has received an award of \$2.3 million from the US-based Michel J Fox Foundation.
- The study is an Indo-German collaborative research proposal, titled Genetic Architecture of Parkinson's Disease, led by the Comprehensive Care Centre for Movement Disorders at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram, and the Centre for Genetic Epidemiology, University of Tuebingen, Germany.

Challakere to be ISRO's astronaut training hub

- India's world-class facility for training astronauts will come up not in the space headquarters in Bengaluru, nor in any glitzy metropolis. It will be established in three years at Challakere, a shrubby, arid oilseeds town on the Bengaluru-Pune NH4 in Chitradurga district of Karnataka.

Sports

Name	Award Name	Extra Information
Irfan Pathan		Announces retirement from all forms of cricket
Manav Thakkar		Became world no.1 in the latest International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings in the Under-21 men's singles category.
Saurabh Chaudhary	10 m air pistol – Gold	Ace shooter Saurabh Chaudhary has won the men's 10 metres air pistol gold at the 63rd National Shooting Championship in Bhopal today.
P Magesh Chandran	95th Hastings International Chess title	India's P Magesh Chandran lifted the title in the 95th edition of the prestigious Hastings International Chess Congress at Hastings in England.
Harshvardhan Sadgir	2020 Maharashtra Kesari title	Indian wrestler Harshvardhan Sadgir won the Maharashtra Kesari title in the 63rd wrestling event at Balewadi near Pune on 7 January 2020.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Novak Djokovic	ATP Cup	Rafael Nadal's Spain lost to Novak Djokovic's Serbia in the final of the ATP Cup at Ken Rosewall Arena in Sydney.
Wade Ormsby	Hong Kong Open title	Australian Wade Ormsby completed a wire-to-wire victory at the Hong Kong Open as a final-round 66 lifted the Australian to the title for the second time in three years.
India	Number One in the World in the Sport of Shooting	In terms of overall medals, the tally stood at 21 gold, six silver and three bronze as India topped all the Rifle-Pistol World Cups and Finals in a unforgettable year.
Rohit Sharma	2019 ODI Cricketer of the Year	India's swashbuckling opener Rohit Sharma has been named the ICC's '2019 ODI Cricketer of the Year' for his incredible run of form through the year.
Virat Kohli	'Spirit of Cricket' award	Indian captain Virat Kohli won the 'Spirit of Cricket' award for stopping fans from booing Australia's Steve Smith during their World Cup match at the Oval.
Anshu Malik	silver in 2020 Rome Ranking Series	
Sania Mirza	women doubles title of WTA International trophy	Sania Mirza lifted the WTA Hobart International trophy with partner Nadiia Kichenok after edging out Shuai Peng and Shuai Zhang in the final. The unseeded Indo-Ukrainian pair pipped the second seed Chinese team 6-4 6-4.
Vinesh Phogat	gold medal in Rome Ranking Series	Vinesh Phogat won her first gold medal of the 2020 season at the Rome Ranking Series. Anshu Malik settled for a silver in 57kg competition in Rome.
Kuldeep Yadav	became the fastest Indian spinner to take 100 wickets in ODIs	The left-arm wrist-spinner reached the milestone in his 58th match when he got rid of Alex Carey for 18 in the 38th over of the Australian run chase.
Ratchanok Intanon	Indonesia Masters 2020 title	Intanon defeated Marin 21-19, 11-21, 21-18 in one hour and twenty minutes long match.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

		The clash went into three-games and both the shuttlers tried their 100 per cent to turn things in their favour.
Saleha Sultan	Titular Queen of Bhopal	Princess Saleha Sultan, the titular queen of Bhopal and wife of the late Nawab Bashir Yar Jung of the Paigah family.
Divyansh Singh Pawar, Apurvi Chandela	Gold in Meyton Cup	Indian shooters Divyansh Singh Pawar and Apurvi Chandela have clinched a gold medal each in Meyton Cup in Innsbruck, Austria.
Kiran Ankush Jadhav	10m air rifle T1 trial	In Shooting, Kiran Ankush Jadhav of the Indian Navy won the men's 10 metres air rifle T1 trial even as Maharashtra's Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil clinched both the junior and youth trials in Thiruvananthapuram.
Mizoram	Dr T Ao Football Trophy 2020	Two times champion Mizoram defeated Sikkim by 1-0 goal to emerge as the champion. Mizoram midfielder David Lalrinmuana scored the lone goal to secure the title for the team.
India	T20 International at Wellington	India beat New Zealand via Super Over in the fourth T20 International after a second successive tie at Wellington.

Obituary

Name	Associated Field
D P Tripathi	Senior Nationalist Congress Party leader
David Stern	NBA -commissioner
TN Chaturvedi	Former Karnataka Governor
Gopinath Gajapati Narayan Deo	Former parliamentarian
Sultan Qaboos of Oman	Arab world's longest-serving ruler
Manmohan Mohapatra	Odia Filmmaker
Sunanda Patnaik	Veteran Odia Hindustani vocalist
Shamsher Singh	Congress leader
Vinay Sinha	Veteran film producer

CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – JANUARY 2020

Important Days

Day	Date	Theme
World Braille Day	January 04	
Pravasi Bharatiya Divas	January 09	
National Youth Day	January 12	Channelizing Youth Power for Nation Building
Lohri day	January 13	
Armed Forces Veterans Day	January 14	
Army Day	January 15	
IMD Foundation Day	January 15	
International Day of Education	January 24	Learning for people, planet, prosperity, and peace
National Girl Child Day	January 24	
National Voters Day	January 25	Electoral Literacy for a Stronger Democracy
National Tourism Day	January 25	
International Customs Day	January 26	
Republic Day	January 26	
International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust	January 27	75 years after Auschwitz Holocaust education and Remembrance for global justice.
World Neglected Diseases day	January 30	