

SSC & Railways

Bi-Weekly Current Affairs (16 - 30 November)

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Dear readers,

Bi-Weekly One Liners Update is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (16-30th) of **November** 2019. This file is important for, **SSC and Railways** exams.

Important News - India

- Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro will be the Chief Guest at the Republic Day Parade 2020. Note: The year 2018 was historic when leaders from the 10 ASEAN nations – Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Brunei – were the chief guests at Republic Day celebration. On 26th January 2020, India will celebrate its 71st Republic Day.
- India gets USD 43 million from Green Climate Fund to boost climate resilience.
 Note: India kicked-off a USD 43 million project to boost climate resilience in three coastal states in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project is funded by the Green Climate Fund, established within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to assist developing countries.
- **3.** Mangala Mani is the first woman scientist to spend 403 days in Antarctica. Note: Mani was part of an expedition team that went to Bharati – India's research station in Antarctica – in November 2016. She was the only woman in the 23-member-team that went to the freezing continent this time.
- 4. The Union Water Resources Ministry has set up a Committee to draft a new National Water Policy (NWP). The Committee will be chaired by Mihir Shah.

Note: The committee has **10** principal members, including Shashi Shekhar, a former secretary of Water Resources, and A.B. Pandya, former chairman of the Central Ground Water Board. The NWP currently in force was drafted in 2012 and is the third such policy since 1987

5. The Supreme Court has held that the office of the **Chief Justice of India** (CJI) is a public authority under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005.**

Note: The judgment in this regard was made by a five-judge constitution bench headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi on November 13, 2019. Other members of the bench apart from Ranjan Gogoi were Justices Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana, Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, Deepak Gupta and Sanjiv Khanna.

- 6. The Indian Navy has selected Lt. Commander Karabi Gogoi as assistant naval attache at the Moscow Embassy. Note: She will be the first woman Assistant Naval Attache and second woman defence personnel to be appointed for a diplomatic assignment in Russia. Currently posted as a naval engineer at the Karwar base of the Navy, the officer is also learning Russian and is expected to take up her new assignment in Moscow next month.
- 7. The 6th World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance was held in New Delhi. Note: It was jointly hosted by the Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.
- 8. India-U.S. tri-services amphibious exercise Tiger Triumph has begun at Vishakhapatnam. Note: The training events will enhance U.S.-India military-to-military relations and hone individual and small-unit skills in humanitarian assistance and disaster response. The exercise will include staff-planning events as well as field training that simulates moving a humanitarian assistance/disaster relief force from ship to shore.
- **9.** Writer and columnist, Harish Bhat's new novel was launched in Mumbai -- **An Extreme Love of Coffee. Note:** The novel is published by Penguin Random House India with the collaboration of Tata Starbucks. This is his third book but the first fiction and it took Bhat about 8 months to complete. The book is a story about two young people, Rahul, and Neha who follow their passion for coffee.
- **10. CSIR- IMTECH, Chandigarh** has signed a MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay to promote collaborative research.

Note: The objective of this collaboration is to carry out state of the art research in areas of healthcare especially in projects and missions where both the institutes can significantly complement each other.

Regional Conference on "Replication of Good Governance Practices in Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh" held at ______
 Jammu.

Note: A two-day Regional Conference on the theme: "Replication of Good Governance Practices in Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh" has begun in Jammu. The Conference is organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India in collaboration with the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.



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12. National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) was launched in **Jammu and Kashmir**.

Note: The event was attended by around 300 teachers, Key Resource Persons (KRPs) and Chief Education Officers, DIET Principals and Educational Administrators. NISHTHA is a National Mission aimed at improving learning outcomes at Elementary level through integrated Teacher Training

13. Central Bureau of Investigation has a set up an Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (OCSAE) Prevention and Investigation Unit at its headquarter in New Delhi.

Note: It has been set up to counter the growing menace of child porn on the internet. The new specialized unit under the Special Crime Investigation Wing of the agency will collect intelligence on those who are allegedly creating and transmitting such material on the internet.

- 14. Smriti Irani Inaugurates Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh (BPKK) to Tackle -- Malnutrition. Note: The Poshan Atlas was inaugurated by Smriti Zubin Irani along with Bill Gates in New Delhi. The Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh is a repository of diverse crops across 128 agro-climatic zones to help enable better nutritional outcomes. The Kosh aims to reduce malnutrition among women and children across the country, through a multi-sectoral results-based framework, including agriculture
- **15.** President **Ram Nath Kovind** presented the prestigious President's Colour to the Indian Naval Academy at **Kannur,Kerala.**

Note: President's Colour is a visible symbol of excellence and is earned through worthy contribution both during war and peace.

16. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC) has launched a special winter-grade diesel that remains unfrozen up to minus 33 degree Celsius.

Note: The fuel would help provide year-round access to snow-capped border regions and is part of India's efforts to speed up strategic road connectivity. This new fuel will help Indian security forces to stock up on crucial supplies and ammunition that gets cut off due to bad weather in winters. Indian Oil's winter-grade diesel meets BIS specifications and has been produced and certified by the company's Panipat refinery.

17. UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) has released a 28-page booklet called **From uttapam to sprouted dal parantha**.

Note: It explains that nutritious food prepared at less than 20 rupees will help in dealing with problems like underweight, obesity and anaemia in children. The book gives a detailed break-up of protein, carbohydrate, fat, total fibre, iron, vitamin C and calcium content of the recipe.

- 18. The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of the National Institute for Sowa-Rigpa (NISR) in Leh. Note: The setting up of the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR) would provide an impetus for the revival of Sowa-Rigpa in the Indian Sub-continent. It will be an autonomous organization under the Ministry of AYUSH. It also approved the creation of the post of director in Level-14 to oversee implementation of the project from the construction stage itself.
- **19.** RSS Chief **Dr. Mohan Bhagwat** has inaugurated the International Principal's Education Conference (IPEC) at **Nagpur. Note:** Noted mathematician Anand Kumar (Super 30 founder) was honoured with Nachiketa Sarvottama Award on the occasion. Mr. Kumar dedicated this award to all the teachers who are working for the upliftment of underprivileged children.
- 20. Census 2021(16th) will be conducted in two phases (House-listing & Housing Census) during April to September 2020. Note: The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has recommended an amount of Rs. 8754.23 crore for conducting Census 2021 in 16 languages. The reference date for the census will be 1 March 2021. It will be 1st October 2020 for Snowbound Jammu and Kashmir, some areas of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- 21. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated an Agro-based Exhibition 'Agro-Vision-2019' in --Nagpur.

Note: Agro-Vision exhibition comprises of National Agri-Exhibition Workshop for farmers and seminars. Small entrepreneurs who are engaged in the production of Agricultural machinery and components will be displaying their products at the stalls.

- **22.** India's Gram Panchayats will be connected with internet, broadband by March 2020 -- **Two lakhs Note:** The union Govt. has set a target to provide internet and broadband connectivity to two lakh Gram Panchayats by March 2019. BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband and internet connectivity to all 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats in the country.
- 23. The Film Bazaar has been inaugurated by the Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar on the sidelines of the golden jubilee edition of the International Film Festival of India. Note: It has been organised by the National Film Development Corporation. The Film Bazaar encourages creative and financial collaboration between the South Asian and International film communities. Over the years, films such as Lunch Box, Margarita with A Straw, Chauthi Koot, Qissa, Miss Lovely, Dum Lagake Haisha and Thithi have been through one or more programmes of the Bazaar.



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24. The Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has delivered 'ICGS Amrit Kaur', third in the series of five fast patrol vessels (FPV) to Indian Coast Guard.

Note: ICGS Priyadarshini and ICGS Annie Besant are the first two FPV in the series which has already been delivered to ICGS. The last two FPVs namely ICGS Kamla Devi and ICGS Kanaklata Barua will be commissioned shortly, after successful sea trials.

- 25. The three-day Global Bio-India Summit 2019 held at Aerocity New Delhi. Note: It will be one of the largest biotechnology stakeholder conglomerates held in India for the first time. It will bring academia, innovators, researchers, start-ups, medium and large companies together on the same platform.
- **26.** As per Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019 awards, top-ranked state in the list is **Tamil Nadu**. **Note:** Top-ranked district is Peddapalli (Telangana)
- 27. The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) will operate and manage luxury train, Golden Chariot from March 2020.

Note: The Golden Chariot Train (commenced operations in 2008) travels through one of the famous tourist and picturesque destinations of Karnataka, and Hamp (UNESCO world heritage site). It has 18 coaches with 44 guest rooms having a capacity for 84 guests. The train promises to offer world-class comfort, state-of-the-art amenities and enhanced and unforgettable experience to passengers.

- 28. The two days **Conference of Governors and Lieutenant Governors** (50th) held in **New Delhi**. **Note:** The Conference discussed important thematic issues in various sessions. It includes tribal issues, reforms in agriculture, Jal Jeevan Mission, new education policy for higher education and governance for ease of living.
- 29. The 2019 NuGen Mobility Summit held at Manesar, Haryana. Note: The Theme of 2019 is "Smart & Green Mobility". The objective of the summit is to share new ideas, learnings, global experiences, innovations and future technologies trends for the faster adoption, assimilation and development of advanced Automotive Technologies for a smarter and greener future.
- **30.** Union Minister for **Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** has released a short documentary film on Water Conservation named **SHIKHAR SE PUKAR**.

Note: The film has been made to promote 'Jalshakti Abhiyan' and is based on the Journey of an IAS Officer Ravindra Kumar.Mr Ravindra Kumar climbed Everest this year to attract the attention of people from the top of the Everest on the serious issue of Water Conservation and stopping Water Pollution.

- 31. The world's biggest Islamic Congregation 'Aalmi Tablighi Ijtima' held at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
 Note: More than one million people from 54 countries are expected to attend the congregation which will continue till 25th November. It is a forum for delivering some important religious-spiritual messages to Muslims around the world.
 The first Alami Tablighi Ijtima took place in Bhopal in 1944 and only 14 people attended it then.
- 32. Nitin Gadkari has released a booklet titled 'Convergence of National Highway improvement/construction with water conservation and groundwater recharge' at Agro Vision-2019, Nagpur.
 Note: The agriculture exhibition, Agro Vision show (4-Day) highlight the scope where the Indian agricultural sector can achieve new height of success. The theme of the 11th Agrovision has been aptly chosen as "Smart Technologies for Sustainable Development
- **33.** Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated the **two-day Air Force Commanders' Conference** in **New Delhi**. **Note:** Top commanders of the Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in it. They will discuss the operational, maintenance and administrative matters related to Air Force.
- 34. The US State Department cleared the sale of sophisticated naval guns worth USD 1 billion to India. Note: The MK-45 guns will enhance India's naval capabilities, particularly in the Arabian Sea. The Gun System will provide the capability to conduct anti-surface warfare and anti-air defence missions while enhancing interoperability with the U.S. and other allied forces.
- **35.** Oxford Dictionaries has named 2019 Word of the Year -- climate emergency. Note: It also included 'climate action', 'climate denial', 'eco-anxiety', 'extinction' and 'flight shame'. The word is selected because it shows the increase in usage since 2018. Climate emergency defines as "a situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change.
- **36.** Hardeep Singh Puri has launched Credit-linked Subsidy Services Awas Portal (CLAP) in New Delhi. Note: The portal provides a transparent and robust real-time web-based monitoring system for credit-linked Subsidy Services (CLSS) beneficiaries. Using the portal, a beneficiary can track his application status in real-time. The initiative would also benefit other stakeholders to work in synergy to release subsidy to beneficiaries on time.
- **37.** The Indian Railways has decided to introduce an automatic train protection system in its entire network of **68,000 km route**.

Note: As a pilot project, the system would be implemented on 650 route km of the golden quadrilateral corridor connecting the four metros - Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

38. ISRO has launched India's most sophisticated Earth observation satellite Cartosat-3 and 13 US nanosatellites from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.



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Note: The launch enhanced India's ability in high-resolution imaging and also reinforce India as a global launch destination for small satellites using its workhorse rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle. According to ISRO, the 1,625 kg Cartosat-3 is an advanced agile satellite to obtain panchromatic and multispectral imagery with an operational life of five years.

- **39.** Minister of State for Defence **Shripad Naik** has inaugurated a two-day seminar "DEFCOM INDIA 2019' in **New Delhi**. **Note:** The theme of 'DEFCOM INDIA 2019' is 'Communications: A Decisive Catalyst for Jointness'. The seminar is devoted to the seminal theme of leveraging communications for achieving jointness between the three services.
- 40. The Indian Navy will host military drill in March 2020 -- Milan 2020.
 Note: MILAN stands for 'Multilateral Naval Exercise'. 41 nations from South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa and Europe that share defence cooperation with India have been invited for the drill.
- **41.** The Indian Railways has set up the Institute of Financial Management (IRIFM) -- **Secunderabad, Telangana. Note:** The institute was formally inaugurated by Vinod Kumar Yadav (Chairman, Railway Board. The new entity (IRIFM) will impart professional training in the management of railway finances). Rail Vikas Nigam Limited conceived and constructed the project, on a 14-acre campus at a cost of Rs 85 crore.
- 42. Former Australian cricket umpire Simon Taufel released his book titled -- Finding The Gaps.
 Note: Simon Taufel (retired in 2012) is a five-time ICC Umpire of the Year (between 2004 and 2008) and part of ICC's Elite Panel of Umpires. The Australian stood in his first One-Day International in 1999, and his first Test in 2000.
- 43. A book titled "Hemant Karkare -A Daughter's Memoir" by his daughter -- Jui Karkare Navare.
 Note: The book portrays former Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) chief Hemant Karkare's life as a father to Jui Karkare Navare. The book has been published by The Write Place. 18 security personnel lost their lives in the 26/11 terror attacks (11th anniversary).
- **44.** The Centre for **Water Resources Development and Management** (CWRDM), operating under the **Government of Kerala** has launched the -- Water 4 Change.

Note: Under the project, six prominent institutions from the Netherlands will perform long-term research and field-level action on urban water management systems along with Indian scientists. The project will bring solutions for water problems in the cities of Kozhikode, Shimla, Bhuj and Bhopal.

45. Mr. 'Nishank' also launched three books which are a collection of stories for Children namely **Kumbh, Garam Pahad and Dilli ki Bulbul (Sindhi edition).**

Note: Books has been authored by a popular writer of children's books and travelogues Dr Anita Bhatnagar Jain (IAS-1985 batch). The three books are a collection of stories for children and have brought out environmental issues and topics like socio-cultural unity& cultural heritage in a very simple and interesting manner.

46. Union Minister Piyush Goyal has inaugurated the 2019 Global Exhibition on Services (5th edition) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Note: The inaugural function was also attended by Chief Minister of Karnataka B. S. Yediyurappa. GES is an annual event established by the Department of Commerce, Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry in association with Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

47. G Satheesh Reddy has been awarded honorary fellowship by **Royal Aeronautical Society** (RAeS) of United Kingdom (UK).

Note: He is the first Indian recipient of the prestigious award in more than 100 years. It is one of the world's highest distinctions for aerospace achievement awarded for only most exceptional contributions to the aerospace profession. It is considered as equivalent to Nobel Prize in the aerospace domain.

48. The sixth Dornier aircraft squadron has been commissioned at Naval Air Enclave- Porbandar on Gujarat coast -- Indian Naval Air Squadron 314.

Note: This squadron will operate the Dornier aircraft, a multi-role SRMR aircraft, with twin turboprop engine manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautical Limited, Kanpur.

49. The NBFC arm of Aditya Birla Capital, became the first company to list its commercial papers on the stock exchanges______ Aditya Birla Finance Ltd (ABFL).

Note: The value date of the commercial paper is November 28 and maturity date on February 7, 2020.

50. Union Government has extended the date for making FASTag mandatory for toll payments on National Highways to **15th December 2019.**

Note: National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has equipped all Fee Plazas with Electronic Toll Collection System and to ease in availability of FASTag. It has also launched MyFASTag APP whereby all information regarding FASTag can be obtained.

- **51.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a 400 million-dollar Line of Credit of to **Sri Lanka**. **Note:** India gives priority to its relations with Sri Lanka under its Neighbourhood First' Policy.
- **52.** Hallmarking for Gold jewellery and artefacts will be mandatory from **15th January 2021**.



Note: More than 26 thousand jewellers have taken the Bureau of Indian Standards, BIS (Hallmarking) registration till now. If anyone is found violating the set rules after 15th January 2021, they may attract a fine of minimum one lakh rupees or five times the value of the items or a jail term of one year.

Important News - State

- Andhra Pradesh has launched the 'Nadu-Nedu' scheme to introduce English medium from classes 1 to 6. Note: The Union government also planning to introduce another scheme called 'Amma Vodi' in January 2020 to give incentives to mothers who send their children to school and continue their education till class 12. In the first phase, the 'Nadu-Nedu' programme will be implemented in 15,715 schools. It will cover all schools in three years under a budget of Rs 12,000 crores.
- 2. Karnataka Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa has inaugurated the Bengaluru Tech Summit at Bengaluru Place. Note: More than 3500 delegates, 12,000 visitors and 200 speakers are participating in this Summit. 250 Exhibitors will showcase their services, products, and technologies to visitors. The summit is expected to be attended by global tech leaders, investors, industry captains, research heads, policymakers and startups from India and 20 foreign countries.
- 3. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has inaugurated North India's first sugar mill in Gorakhpur (Pipraich area).

Note: North India's first sugar mill will produce ethanol direct from sugarcane. Ethanol is naturally produced by the fermentation of sugars by yeasts or via petrochemical processes and is commonly consumed as a popular recreational drug.

4. The two tea varieties of Darjeeling have been registered as a geographical indication (GI) products in the country -- green tea and white tea.

Note: These two varieties of Darjeeling tea have been registered under Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act 1999 (effective from October 2019). This will "strengthen the protection of the intellectual property rights of the Darjeeling tea" which is considered as "niche and luxury" products in the country and abroad.

5. Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan has launched 'SAANS' campaign to reduce child mortality due to pneumonia in **Gujarat**.

Note: Mr. Vardhan launched the campaign while inaugurating the 6th National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices and Innovations in Gujarat. The objective of the SAANS campaign to reduce child mortality due to pneumonia, which contributes to around 15% of deaths annually of children under the age of five.

6. Union Minister for Rural Development Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the SARAS India International Trade Fair in New Delhi.

Note: More than seven crore women have joined Self-Help Groups so far and the Ministry is making all efforts to take this number to 10 crores.

- The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a loan under Karnataka Integrated and Sustainable Water Resources Management Investment Program (IWRM) USD 91 million.
 Note: The project will help to modernize the Vijayanagara Channel irrigation systems, prepare river basin management plans in the Krishna river basin that will help improve irrigation water use efficiency and contribute to improving sustainable water security in Karnataka.
- 8. India's biggest cinematic event, the 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has begun in **Panaji, Goa**. **Note:** Rajinikanth has been conferred with the Special Icon of **Golden Jubilee award** for his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema. French actor Isabelle Huppert honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award. **Russia is the partner country** of the IFFI 2019.
- 9. Directorate of School Education (DSEJ), Jammu has launched a special enrollment drive under the banner 'Aao School Chalein' for increasing the enrollment in government schools. Note: As per the Directorate of School Education, the special enrollment drive would be conducted across all the villages and catchment areas of the government schools, under the supervision of chief education officers of all the districts of Lammu Division. The prime forms of the drive is on the strengthening of prime of schied dress of the government schools.

Jammu Division. The prime focus of the drive is on the strengthening of pre-schooling of children in the age group of 3 to 5 years.

10. Assam Govt. has approved Arundhati scheme to provide 1 Tola Gold to Brides free of cost. Note: This scheme to give 1 tola Gold (11.66 grams) to brides parents belonging to the economically weaker sections of the society, whose annual income is below Rs 5 lakh. The objective of the scheme to reduce child marriage under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act that a girl in India can't get married before the age of 18 and a boy cant get married before 21 years of age

11. Uttarakhand govt. has launched a project to connect 500 secondary schools to virtual classrooms



Note: The schools in the state facing a shortage of teachers will benefit from the new technology. Virtual classes are attended through video conferences where students can meet the teacher on a real-time basis and ask questions. An estimated 1.90 lakh students of 500 government-run secondary schools in the state will benefit from the project

- 12. Haryana Government has decided to create a dedicated new department namely Department of Foreign Cooperation. Note: The department has been created in order to streamline and provide focus to various initiatives taken by the state government for the promotion of investment, employment for youth and welfare of Non-Resident Indians. The new department will deal in the formulation of country-wise strategies for the promotion of investment, employment in the state, education and skill development and promotion of Haryanvi culture and welfare of Haryanvi diaspora.
- **13.** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has inaugurated the newly established Munderwa Sugar Mill in **Basti district.**

Note: Munderwa mill will have a capacity of 5000 Tons of Cane per Day and generate 27 Mega Watt of power. It will be the third inauguration of sugar mills in the state in just three weeks (Ramala in Baghpat and Pipraich in Gorakhpur).
14. The Assam Govt. has released the new Land Policy 2019.

- **Note:** The Land Policy has been prepared by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department after 30 years. (last prepared in 1989). According to Mr. Sonowal, the state government has given a lot of emphasis in preparing the Policy to safeguard the interest of the indigenous people.
- 15. The Centre and Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed an agreement to extend 91 million US dollar loan to modernize the Vijayanagara Channel Irrigation Systems.
 Note: It prepares river basin management plans in the Krishna river basin. It will help improve irrigation water use efficiency and contribute to improving sustainable water security in Karnataka. The investment programme will help Karnataka's water agencies better draw up and roll out effective river basin management plans.
- 16. A three-day Global Buddhist Congregation has begun at Nagsenvan in Aurangabad, Maharashtra. Note: Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama has delivered two lectures in the Congregation. Buddhist monks and followers of the religion from across the globe arrived here to attend this Congregation
- 17. Jitendra Singh inaugurates 'Destination North East' Festival in Varanasi. Note: All 8 North-East states have been presented at the event along with their handicrafts, handloom, organic products and cultural troupes. The visitors will have live experiences of the artisans and artists from the NE states working on their looms and crafts, performing their songs and dances in the open stage during the day.
- 18. Assam government will start Arundhati gold scheme by January 2020 for the registered newly married couples. Note: Under the scheme, an amount of 30 thousand rupees will be given to the bride to purchase gold. According to Assam Finance minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the scheme is aimed to promote marriage registrations and prevent under-age marriages in the state. The annual income of the bride and her father should not be more than 5 lakh rupees per year to get the benefit.
- **19.** The **Kerala Government** has decided to ban the **manufacture**, **sale and storage** of one-time-use **plastic items** from 1st of January 2019.

Note: Plastic carry bags, plastic sheets, cooling films, plastic plates, cups, thermocol and Styrofoam-based items and others will be covered under the ban. A fine of 10,000 rupees will be slapped on manufacturers, wholesalers and small traders who defy the ban. If the ban is violated for the second time, the fine will be 25,000 rupees.

20. Manipur Chief Minister **N. Biren Singh** has inaugurated the week-long **Manipur Sangai Festival 2019** at **Hapta Kangjeibung**, **Imphal**.

Note: During the festival, cultural programmes, traditional games, folk dance and classical music will be performed by different communities of the State as well as from other States. The festival will conclude on the 30th of this month.

21. Uttar Pradesh Health & Family Welfare Minister **Jai Pratap Singh** has launched a massive **immunisation campaign** against the **filariasis or Filaria**.

Note: Under this campaign, more than 65 thousand teams of health workers will distribute medicines to around 6.5 crore people till 10 December. This year, state's 19 districts have been divided in double drug and triple-drug categories in which they will be provided DEC tablet, Albendazole and ivermectin.

22. Gujarat Govt. has announced a relief package **3,795 crore rupees** for farmers who **suffered crop** loss due to unseasonal rains.

Note: The relief package will help more than 56 lakh farmers across the state. According to Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel, total package (1,641 crore rupees) will be given through a budgetary provision and 2,145 crores under the State Disaster Response Fund. Farmers will get assistance in the range of 4,000 rupees to 13,000 rupees

23. Madhya Pradesh Govt has announced that sports persons of the state will get 5% reservation in government jobs. Note: The Minister also announced that children from all CBSE, government and private schools would be involved in the Under 16 state-level Olympics. At present, the competition is being organized for children above 16 years of age. It includes 10 sports (hockey, basketball, football, volleyball, kabaddi, kho-kho, athletics, wrestling, badminton and table tennis).



Gradeup Green Card Unlimited Access to All 350+ SSC & Railways Mock Tests 24. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated the 8th National Tribal Craft Mela at State Tribal Museum Complex in Bhubaneswar.

Note: As a part of Odisha Government's '5Ts' initiative, 45 Supplementary Readers prepared in 21 Tribal languages were released simultaneously by CM Patnaik. The objective of the National Tribal Craft Mela is to preserve, promote and popularize traditional tribal art and crafts.

- **25.** Etawah Lion Safari opened for public without the lion segment -- **Uttar Pradesh**. **Note:** The Safari has been inaugurated by the Uttar Pradesh Forest Minister Dara Singh Chauhan. It is spread in 350 hectares of land and has been developed as an educative tourist destination for children as well as youths. It is one of the biggest safari parks in Asia, spread over an area of 350 hectares (860 acres). The Etawah lion safari is the first in India to have a lion breeding centre set up with an aim to develop a research facility on Asiatic lions.
- **26.** The **Uttar Pradesh government** will set up state's **first vulture conservation** and breeding centre in **farenda area** of **Maharajganj district**.

Note: The new centre will be set up on the lines of Jatayu Conservation Centre at Pinjore in Haryana (first in the country). It would be set up in association with Bombay Natural History Society, a wildlife research organization.

- 27. Chhattisgarh state Govt. will set up Guru Ghasidas National Park in Kotiya district as its fourth 'tiger reserve'. Note: This decision was taken in 11th meeting of Chhattisgarh State Wildlife Board chaired by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. At present there are three tiger reserves in state:
 - Achanakmar Tiger Reserve in Bilaspur.
 - Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve in Gariaband,
 - Indravati Tiger Reserve in Bijapur district.
- 28. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved the 2nd tranche of USD 150 million for West Bengal. Note: The board of ADB approved a loan of USD 300 million to continue a comprehensive series of fiscal reforms in West Bengal to revive the financial health of public sector enterprises.
- **29. Assam** Government has prohibited manufacture and sale of gutkha, **pan masala** or any others chewing material in the state.

Note: According to Food Safety commissioner, manufacture, storage, sale, display and transportation of any products containing tobacco or nicotine are banned in the state for one year.

30. Shipping Ministry gave approval for the development of Loktak Inland Waterways improvement project in **Manipur**. **Note:** The estimated cost of the project is over 25 crore rupees. The Loktak Lake is the largest fresh-water lake in Northeast located at Moirang in Manipur.

Important News - World

- 1. The 6th ASEAN **Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus** (ADMM-Plus) held in **Bangkok, Thailand. Note:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh along with 17 other Defence Ministers of ADMM-Plus countries are attending the meeting. Earlier, Mr Singh reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral defence relations with the respective leaders and discussed ways to further improve the ties.
- 2. As per latest Global Bribery Risk Index, **Bangladesh** has been identified as the "country with the highest risk" in terms of bribery threats in South Asia.

Note: India has been ranked at 78th in the Global Bribery Risk Index out of 178 countries. In South Asia, Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only countries where the bribery risk is "high". The five countries with the lowest bribery risk in the world are New Zealand, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland.

- 3. Who has become the 1st country to introduce the new vaccine to combat typhoid -- **Pakistan**. **Note:** Pakistan has become the first country in the world to introduce World Health Organisation-recommended typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV) in its national immunisation program. It will initially be used during a two-week immunisation campaign starting from 18 to 30th November in the urban areas of Sindh.
- 4. 1st Indo-Qatari joint Naval Exercise Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) held in -- Doha. Note: The Bilateral Maritime Exercise Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) between the Indian Navy and Qatari Emiri Naval Forces has been started in Doha to enhance interoperability between the two navies. From the Indian side, Indian Navy Guided Missile Stealth Frigate INS Trikand and Patrol Aircraft P8-I are participating in the exercise. The versatile Anti-Ship Missile equipped Barzan Class Fast Attack Craft along with Rafale multi-task fighter aircraft will participate from Qatar Navy.
- 5. As per World Talent Ranking (WTR), for the year 201, India was ranked at 59th position. Note: In the released report, India was ranked at 59th position, a slip by 6 places on a global annual list of 63 countries. The top 10 countries that followed Switzerland (1st) were Denmark (2nd), Sweden (3rd), Austria (4th), Luxembourg (5th), Norway(6th), Iceland (7th), Finland (8th), Netherlands (9th) and Singapore (10th).
- 6. The researchers of the University of Gothenburg in Sweden have developed a potential -- Diarrhea vaccine.



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Note: Science journal, The Lancet, reports that it has been proved safe and effective in an early-stage clinical trial in Bangladesh. The report said that 80 to 100 per cent of the children aged two to five years and 50 to 80 per cent of infants aged six to eleven months, selected for the study responded to all key immunity generating components of the vaccine.

Bangladesh's State minister of cultural affairs KM Khalid has inaugurated the Ocean Dance Festival 2019 in Cox Bazar of

 Bangladesh.

Note: Ocean Dance Festival is the largest international dance festival of Bangladesh in which more than 200 dancers, choreographers and scholars from 15 countries are participating. The theme of this year's festival is 'Bridging the distance' or Durotter Shetubandhan. The festival is being organised by the Nrityajog which is the Bangladesh wing of World Dance Alliance (WDA).

8. Maldives' former president **Abdulla Yameen** has been found guilty of money laundering and sentenced to five years in prison.

Note: The five-judge bench of the criminal court unanimously concurred that Yameen is guilty on the charge of laundering state funds for personal gain. He was accused of over 1 million dollars deposit in his bank account by a company that was used to channel resort acquisition fees.

9. Pakistan's Supreme Court granted a six-month conditional extension to Army chief -- **General Qamar Javed Bajwa**. **Note:** Current Chief of Army Staff of the Pakistan Army Mr. Bajwa (since 29 November 2016) continue as the Army chief for another six months. The Chief of Army Staff is appointed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan and final confirmation by the President of Pakistan.

10. India will set up 12 hi-tech parks at a cost of USD 193 million in **Bangladesh.**

Note: According to High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das, these hi-tech parks will provide training to 30,000 youth of Bangladesh as skilled IT professionals.

Honor & Awards

1. An Indian Ph.D. Scholar Ravi Prakash has won BRICS-Young Innovator Prize.

Note: India won 1st prize of #BRICS -Young scientist forum's (YSF) conclave during 6-8 Nov 2019 in Brazil. The theme for the 4th BRICS-YSF was "Cybersecurity and Bio-economy". The BRICS Young Innovator Prize aims to recognize and reward the research, development and innovation projects in the science and technology sector of the BRICS countries.

- 2. Tobacco Board got 'Golden Leaf Award' Tab Expo 2019 in the Netherlands. Note: The Tobacco Board of India was awarded the 'Golden Leaf award 2019' at the Tab Expo 2019 in Amsterdam, Netherlands. It gets the award in the 'Public Service Initiative' category for its efforts in undertaking various ecological initiatives towards Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco cultivation in India. The Golden Leaf Awards was created by Tobacco Reporter, an international magazine in 2006 to recognize professional excellence and dedication in the tobacco industry.
- 3. Manoj Bajpayee starrer won two awards at Asian Film Festival Barcelona for Bhonsle. Note: Manoj Bajpayee-starrer and critically acclaimed movie "Bhonsle" has won the 'Best Screenplay' and 'Best Director' awards at the 'Asian Film Festival' in Barcelona, Spain. The movie was directed by Devashish Makhija. The movie "Bhonsle" revolves around a police constable played by Manoj Bajpayee, who tries to help in the struggles of migrants and their battles with the local politicians.
- 4. Renowned Rabindra Sangeet exponent from Bangladesh has conferred the ICCR distinguished alumni award in Dhaka_ Rezwana Choudhury Bannya

Note: The award was given away by the Riva Ganguly Das (High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh) in a musical function organised by the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC). Rezwana Choudhury Bannya is widely recognised as a great exponent of Rabindra Sangeet.

5. Late actor Sridevi Sridevi & actor Rekha conferred with the Akkineni Nageswara Rao National Award for 2018 and 2019.

Note: The award was presented by Chiranjeevi (Telugu actor). The award is instituted by the Akkineni International Foundation and honours those who have made a lasting impact on Indian cinema.

 Ace Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia has been conferred the Indian Personality of the Year Award (Sports) at the Indo Arab Leaders Summit & Awards 2019.
 Note: World newerlifting champion Mahant Course Sharma was honoured with Vicionary Leaders of the Year (Sports).

Note: World powerlifting champion Mahant Gaurav Sharma was honoured with Visionary Leaders of the Year (Sports) award. Gaurav was conferred with the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award in London.

- Renowned naturalist & broadcaster will receive the 2019 Indira Gandhi Peace Prize -- Sir David Attenborough. Note: He will receive the award for his tireless work to preserve and protect biodiversity. This prestigious award (named after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi) has been accorded annually by Indira Gandhi Trust since 1986.
- 8. India captain Virat Kohli has been named People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India's Person of the Year for 2019 for his animal advocacy efforts.



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Note: Virat Kohli's efforts to improve conditions for animals include sending a letter to officials asking for the release of an elephant used for rides at Amer Fort. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is an American animal rights organization based in Norfolk, Virginia.

- **9.** Swedish teen activist has been awarded the International Children's Peace Prize 2019 -- **Greta Thunberg**. **Note:** She has been awarded for her work in the struggle against climate change which has resonated with schoolchildren across the world. Cameroonian peace activist Divina Maloum (15-years) also received the International Children's Peace Prize, awarded for her "peaceful struggle" against the Boko Haram jihadist group.
- 10. Satya Nadella has occupied the top spot in Fortune's Businessperson of the Year 2019 list. Note: The list also includes Ajay Banga (Mastercard CEO) and Jayshree Ullal (Arista head). Fortune's annual Businessperson of the Year list features 20 business leaders "who tackled audacious goals, overcame impossible odds, found creative solutions".
- 11. Former Hockey player turned bodybuilder has been crowned Mr Universe 2019 -- Chitahresh Natesan. Note: India secured the second position in the team championship category at the same event. Chitahresh Natesan (5 ft 7 inches tall) has become the first Indian to win Mr Universe (Pro) 2019 in the 90kg category.
- 12. Bangladesh's Floating school project (in South Kanarchor) wins the Aga Khan Architecture Award -- The Arcadia Education Project.

Note: The project involved the construction of a school in an area which is underwater during the monsoon months. The architect (Saif Ul Haque) designed this school which remains on the ground during the dry season and floats on water when the area is submerged in water during monsoon. The school also serves as a shelter, a daycare centre and a vocational training centre for the local people

13. Young activist was awarded the prestigious 2019 International Children's Peace Prize along with Cameroon peace campaigner Divina Maloum -- Greta Thunberg.
 Note: Greta Thunberg had initiated 'Fridays for Future' campaign against climate change along with the school children

across the world.Maloum campaigns for the rights and education of Cameroon children preyed upon by extremist groups. The International Children's Peace Prize is awarded annually to a child who has made a significant contribution to advocating children's rights and improving the situation of vulnerable children.

- 14. Singer Billie Eilish has been named as Billboard's 2019 Woman of the Year.
 Note: Billie Eilish is the youngest artist ever to be named Billboard's Woman of the Year.Pop star Taylor Swift will be honoured at Billboard's event, receiving the inaugural Woman of the Decade award. Eilish gets her crown during the Billboard Women in Music event on 12th December this year
- 15. Odia women weightlifter will receive the 27th Ekalabya Award for 2019 -- Jhilli Dalabehera. Note: Jhilli Dalabehera has brought laurels for both the State and the country in several national and international events. She has won two gold, three silver and a bronze medal in different International weightlifting events.
- 16. Noted writer Manisha Kulshreshtha has been awarded the 28th Bihari Puraskar for 2018 for her novel 'Swapnapash'. Note: The award is presented annually to writers of Rajasthani origin by the KK Birla Foundation for their outstanding work in Hindi or Rajasthani published in the past 10 years. The award named after famous Hindi poet Bihari (Bihari Lal Chaube), and carries a cash prize of Rs 2.5 lakh, a citation, and a plaque.
- 17. Indian journalist is one of several recipients of the 2019 International Press Freedom Awards -- Neha Dixit. Note: Ms. Dixit is a Delhi-based journalist who reports on politics, social justice and gender in South Asia. The award is presented by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), a non-profit organization whose aim is to enable journalists to work without the fear of reprisal.
- 18. French film has won the coveted Golden Peacock Award at the 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa -- Particles

Note: Particles is a 2019 French-Swiss co-produced drama film directed by Blaise Harrison and produced by Estelle Fialon. The Golden Peacock Award carries a cash prize of Rs 40 lakhs to be shared equally between the Director and the Producer, Trophy and the citation. The IFFI 2019 'Best Director Award' was conferred to Lijo Jose Pellissery for his Malayalam film 'Jallikattu'. The Best Director award carries a Silver Peacock trophy, a citation and a cash prize worth Rs 15 lakh.

19. Noted Malayalam poet has been declared the recipient of the 55th Jnanpith Award for the year 2019 -- Akkitham Achuthan Namboodiri.

Note: His work includes Irupatham Noottandinte Ithihasam, or the legend of the 20th century, which is considered to have brought modernism into Malayalam poetry. Akkitham is the 6th Malayalam writer to be conferred this award. Akkitham Achuthan Namboodiri is the recipient of the Padma Shri (in 2017), Kerala Sahitya Academy Award (in 1971), the Sahitya Academy Award (in 1973), and the Vayalar Award i(n 2012).

Banking & Financial Awareness

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- Moody's Investors Service slashed India's economic growth forecast for FY 2019 5.6%.
 Note: Moody's says that government measures do not address the widespread weakness in consumption demand. Moody's had on October 10 slashed India's economic growth forecast for 2019-20 fiscal to 5.8 per cent from an earlier estimate of 6.2 per cent.
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of the BNP Paribas (BNPP) Mutual Fund and the Baroda (BOB) Mutual Fund, under Section 31(1) the Competition Act, 2002.
 Note: The Proposed Combination relates to the merger of the BNP Paribas Mutual Fund and the BOB Mutual Fund. The parties propose to amalgamate (i) BOB Asset Management Company (AMC) into BNPP AMC; and (ii) BNPP Trustee Company (TC) into BOB TC.
- 3. ICICI Lombard has been partnering with 'Fino Payments Bank' to offer non-life insurance solutions to its customers. Note: ICICI Lombard has introduced several innovative insurance solutions that complement Fina's technology-enabled platforms and harness its customer reach. ICICI Lombard and Fino also launched Dengue and Malaria policy which covers treatment to Dengue and Malarial diseases up to Rs. 10,000 at a
- 4. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved stricter disclosure norms for listed companies. Note: Accordingly, in case of default in repayment of loans beyond 30 days, listed companies will have to disclose the fact of such default within 24 hours. SEBI has amended Portfolio Managers (PM) Regulations, 2019 following which net worth requirement of portfolio managers has been enhanced from two crores to five crore rupees.
- The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has pegged India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth for 2019-20 at 4.9%.
 Note: It lowers its outlook due to the slowdown in almost all sectors & it is primarily driven by a simultaneous

Note: It lowers its outlook due to the slowdown in almost all sectors & it is primarily driven by a simultaneous deceleration of all the drivers of aggregate demand.

6. The Government of India has issued fresh rules under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to govern the rescue of non-bank lenders.

Note: The new rules are likely to help out distressed shadow banks and housing financiers, which have been battling a liquidity crunch for a year. These entities will be covered by a special window under the bankruptcy code, which will be notified from time to time.

- 7. Reserve Bank of India has superseded the board of debt-laden Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL). Note: The company is all set to become India's first financier to land up in bankruptcy courts. The central bank superseded the board "owing to governance concerns and defaults by DHFL in meeting various payment obligations.
- 8. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has superseded the board as it "intends to shortly" initiate the process of insolvency_____ Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL)

Note: In January, a web portal accused the DHFL promoters of committing financial frauds by creating shell companies. A total of 32 Indian and foreign banks lent Rs 97,000 crore to DHFL Group companies with many borrower companies having the same addresses, directors, and auditors. DHFL is the fourth-largest Indian housing finance company based on loans outstanding as of March.

9. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has doubled the minimum investment limit for clients of Portfolio Management Services to Rs 50 lakh.

Note: Currently, the minimum ticket size for investing in PMS is Rs 25 lakh. The market regulator also increased the net worth requirement for PMS to Rs 5 crore from Rs 2 crore earlier, giving the existing portfolio managers 36 months to meet the enhanced requirement. The regulator has set a deadline of 31 days for listed companies to disclose to the stock exchanges with respect to default.

10. The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) constituted a three-member panel to advise the Administrator of **Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL)**

Note: IDFC First Bank's Non-Executive Chairman Rajiv Lall, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance's Managing Director and Chief Executive N S Kannan and Mutual Funds' Association AMFI's Chief Executive N S Venkatesh would be part of the panel. Earlier, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) superseded DHFL's board and placed the company under an administrator in the wake of governance issues and severe liquidity crisis which had led to a string of defaults.

11. The **Union Cabinet** has extended the term of the **15th Finance** Commission by **11 months**.

Note: This will suggest formulae for tax devolution for the 2020-21 fiscal year. It will give recommendations for devolution of taxes and other fiscal matters for five fiscal years, commencing 1 April 2020. The commission's chairman is N. K. Singh, and Full-time members being Ajay Narayan Jha, Ashok Lahiri and Anoop Singh.



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- 12. Fitch group firm India Ratings and Research has projected India's GDP Growth rate for FY20 (2019-20) at 5.6%.
 Note: The new projection suggests that second quarter of 2019-20 GDP growth is likely to be 4.7%. Fitch Ratings Inc. is one of the big three credit rating agencies (other two -Moody's and Standard & Poor's).
- **13. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** has become the first company to touch a market capitalization (m-cap) of Rs 10 lakh crore.

Note: Its shares jumped to touch a record high of Rs 1,581 per piece. A month ago, Reliance Industries became the first Indian company to cross a market capitalisation of Rs 9 lakh crore.

- 14. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised concerns over increasing bad loans from the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. Note: According to RBI, the percentage of MUDRA loans were at 2.52% in 2017-18 (now raised to 2.89% in 2018-19). It also says that the number of loans being sanctioned under the scheme has increased greatly. According to RBI, out of 182 million MUDRA loans sanctioned, 3.63 million accounts have defaulted.
- **15.** The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs. 1.50 crore** on Corporation Bank for noncompliance with certain provisions of directions.

Note: This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

Obituaries

- Former judge of the Supreme Court and former Lokayukta of Karnataka Venkatachala passed away.
 Note: Venkatachala was known for bringing to light the existence of Karnataka's autonomous anti-corruption wing as the Lokayukta by conducting raids on public servants and disclosing their names and particulars of seized assets. He was Lokayukta from July 3, 2001, to July 2, 2006.
- Geetanjali Ramakrishna: Vetrean Telugu actress passed away Note: She had an illustrious career spanning nearly six decades by doing movies not just in Telugu, but also in other South Indian languages. Some of her popular works include Seetharama Kalyanam, Deivathin Deivam, Swapnangal, Parasmani, Gudachari 116 and Bobbili Yuddham.
- Gurudas Dasgupta: Veteran communist leader and trade unionist passed away.
 Note: Dasgupta became a member of the Rajya Sabha in 1985. He was also elected to the Lok Sabha from Panskura and Ghatal constituencies of West Bengal in 2004 and 2009 respectively.
- 4. Krishnan Kumar Modi: Noted industrialist & Chairman of Modi Enterprises passed away. Note: Mr. Modi served as the chairman of Modi Enterprises, which includes companies like Godfrey Phillips, Indofil Industries and Modicare. He was the eldest son of late Rai Bahadur Gujarmal Modi (founder of the city of Modi Nagar).
- Babasaheb Dhabekar: Senior Congress party leader & former Maharashtra minister passed away in Mumbai Note: Mr. Dhabekar was water resources minister when the Shiv Sena-BJP alliance government came to power for the first time in the 1990s.
- 6. TN Seshan: Former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Note: Mr Seshan (IAS Officer: 1955 batch) was appointed CEC on 12th December 1990 during the P V Narasimha Rao led Congress government. He is widely credited for bringing in electoral reforms that changed the face of Indian elections.
- Ramakant Gundecha: Padma Shri-awardee Dhrupad vocalist passed away.
 Note: He was awarded the Padma Shri for 2012 in the field of Art Indian Classical Music Vocal along with his brother Umakant Gundecha. Dhrupad is a genre in Hindustani classical music from the Indian subcontinent and is related to the South Indian Carnatic tradition.
- Sahitya Akademi awardee writer Nabaneeta Dev Sen passed away.
 Note: She was also the recipient of the Padma Shri in 2000. She is the founder and president of the West Bengal Women Writers' Association.
- **9. Kailash Joshi:** Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister. **Note:** He was MLA for eight terms and also served as a member of both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha
- **10. Vashishth Narayan Singh:** Famous Indian mathematician passed away.

Note: The 77-year old had been suffering from Schizophrenia for 40 years. Vashishth Narayan Singh was famous for his extraordinary skills of calculation, challenged Einstein's theory of relativity.



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- 11. Kshiti Goswami: former West Bengal Minister & The General Secretary of the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP). Note: Goswami was PWD Minister in Jyoti Basu and Buddhadev Bhattacharjee's cabinet in the Left Front Government in the State.
- 12. Veteran actor Shaukat Kaifi passed away.
 Note: Kaifi's husband was the celebrated Urdu poet and film lyricist, Kaifi Azmi. Kaifi and Shaukat were leaders of the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) and the Progressive Writers Association (IWA).
- 13. Veteran actor & Shabana Azmi's mother passed away in Mumbai due to age-related illness -- Shaukat Kaifi Note: Kaifi's husband was the celebrated Urdu poet and film lyricist, Kaifi Azmi. Shaukat Kaifi and Kaifi Azmi were leading lights of the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) and the Progressive Writers Association (IWA), which were the cultural platforms of the Communist Party of India.
- 14. Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister & Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Kailash Joshi passed away. Note: Mr. Joshi was called as the 'saint of politics', served as the Madhya Pradesh 9th chief minister (from June 1977 to January 1978). He was MLA for eight terms and served as a member of both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.
- 15. Former West Bengal Minister Kshiti Goswami passed away at a private hospital in Chennai. Note: Goswami was PWD Minister in Jyoti Basu and Buddhadev Bhattacharjee's cabinet in the Left Front Government in the State. He was also the state secretary of the RSP for a few years since 2012.
- 16. Tamil television and film actor Bala Singh passed away in a private hospital in Chennai. Note: Bala Singh was known for playing villainous roles with much aplomb. He played notable characters in Kamal Haasan's Indian, Ullaasam, Simmarasi, Dheena, Virumaandi, Saamy, Kannathil Muthamittal, Pudhupettai and many more films. Bala was last seen in the serial Aathira as Rajarajan in the year 2016
- 17. Cartoonist Sudhir Dar passed away due to cardiac arrest in Noida. Note: Sudhir Dar began his career with The Statesman (in 1961), after which he moved to the Hindustan Times. Dar's cartoons were often political in nature, often taking direct shots at the bureaucracy and the general corruption in Indian politics
- 18. Former Indian Navy Chief Admiral Sushil Kumar passed away in New Delhi. Note: Sushil Kumar was Navy Chief from 1998-2001. He authored a book named "A Prime Minister to Remember-Memories of a Military Chief" which highlighted the key defence-related decisions taken by late former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Kumar had credited Vajpayee for turning the strategic tactical loss into a massive victory
- 19. Australian writer and broadcaster Clive James passed away at home in Cambridge.
 Note: Clive James moved to England in 1961 and rose to prominence as a literary critic and TV columnist. He went on to deliver wry commentary on international programming in such shows as Clive James On Television.
- 20. Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi has inaugurated the 47th All India Police Science Congress (AIPSC) in Lucknow.

Note: During 6 sessions of the event, police officers, academicians, researchers, judicial and scientific experts will present their papers.

21. Lokpal Chairman Justice (retired) **Pinaki Chandra Ghose** has launched the new logo and motto for the apex anticorruption ombudsman -- **Ma Gridhah Kasyasvidhanam**.

Note: Earlier, an open competition was conducted, inviting entries for the logo and the motto. A total of 2,236 entries for the logo and 4,705 entries for the motto were received. A logo designed by Prashant Mishra, a resident of Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, was finally selected.

22. world-renowned rock climber Brad Gobright fell to his death while climbing a sheer rock face in northern Mexico. Note: Witnesses said the men had finished climbing the 900-meter (2,300-foot) summit and were rappelling back down when the accident occurred. US national Gobright (31-years) and fellow American Aidan Jacobson (26-years) were climbing a route known as the Shining Path in the northern state of Nuevo Leon.

23. Japan Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone passed away. Note:Nakasone also broke an unwritten rule on limiting the annual defence budget to 1% of Gross National Product.In 1983, he became the first Japanese Premier to officially visit South Korea, mending fences with a country that Japan had brutally colonized from 1910 to 1945.



Important Days

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- National Press Day being observed every year on 16th November.
 Note: It was on this day the Press Council of India started functioning as a moral watchdog to ensure that the press maintains high standards and is not fettered by any influence or threats.
- International Day for Tolerance is observed by the United Nations (UN) all across the world on 16th November.
 Note: The Day is observed to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems and to celebrate and reinforce the achievements of humanity.
- **3.** The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims observed every year as the appropriate acknowledgement of victims of road traffic crashes and their family -- **17th November (3rd Sunday in November): Note:** The theme is based on Pillar 3 of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety – Safer vehicles.
- 4. World Toilet Day is observed across the world on 19th November. Note: The objective of the day to motivate millions across the world on issues of sanitation. The theme for 2019 is 'Leaving No One Behind'. It's all about inspiring action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and help achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6), which promises sanitation for all by 2030.
- Quami Ekta Week to be observed across the country from 19-25th November.
 Note: The week is observed to highlight the strength and resilience of the nation to withstand any potential threats to the secular fabric. These occasions will also provide an opportunity to reaffirm age-old traditions and faith in the values of tolerance, co-existence, and brotherhood in a multi-cultural and multi-religious society.
- 6. Universal Children's Day is celebrated annually on 20th November. Note: The goal of Universal Children's day is to improve child welfare worldwide, promote and celebrate children's rights and promote togetherness and awareness amongst all children. The intergovernmental organisation is asking individuals, schools and corporates worldwide to 'Go Blue' this Universal Children's Day to help build a world where every child goes to school and is safe from harm.
- 7. Africa Industrialization Day being observed on 20th November. Note: The theme of 2019 is 'Positioning African Industry to Supply the AfCFTA Market'. On 22 March 2018, 44 member States of the African Union signed the Agreement Establishing an African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), thus creating a single African market for goods and services
- The World Fisheries day is celebrated every year on 21st November.
 Note: The Day helps in highlighting the critical importance to human lives, of water and the lives it sustains, both in and out of the water. This year's theme is 2022 Ka Hai Sapna Kisan Ki Aay Ho Dugna Sankalp Se Siddhi".
- 9. World Television Day being observed on 21st November. Note: United Nations proclaimed 21st November as World Television Day commemorating the date on which the first World Television Forum was held in 1996. The day recognizes that television plays a major role in presenting the different issue that affects people.
- The World Philosophy Day 2019 was proclaimed by UNESCO to be celebrated every 3rd Thursday of November. Note: It was first celebrated on 21 November 2002. The 2019 edition aims to highlight the importance of philosophy in different regional contexts.
- 11. The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is being observed every year on 25th November. Note: The theme for this year is "Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands Against Rape". The colour orange in the theme symbolizes a better future without the pervasive human rights violation that affects 1 in 3 women and girls all over the globe.
- 12. The National Cadet Corps (NCC) has celebrated its 71st Raising Day all over the country. Note: The NCC day which is observed every year on the fourth Sunday of November was celebrated with pomp and gaiety. National Cadet Corps is a Tri-Services Organization, comprising the Army, Navy and Air Wing,
- 13. Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas) is being celebrated on 26th November across the country. Note: The day mark the adopting of the Indian Constitution by the Constituent Assembly on this day in 1949 (came into force on 26th January in 1950). The Chairman of the drafting committee 'B. R. Ambedkar' is widely considered to be the chief architect of the Indian Constitution.
- 14. The National Milk Day (NMD) is being observed every year on 26th November.
 Note: The idea of observing National Milk Day was first mooted by Indian Dairy Association (IDA) in 2014 on the lines of World Milk Day that is observed on 1st June every year under the aegis of UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Dr. Kurien he was conferred with many accolades such as Ramon Magsaysay Award, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Krishi Ratna, World Food Prize, Padma Vibhushan, etc.
- 15. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is being observed on 29th November. Note: In 1977, the General Assembly called for the annual observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. On that day, in 1947, the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine.
- **16.** The Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare being observed on **30 November**.



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New Appointments

- Prakash Javadekar took charge as the Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
 Note: He also holds Information & Broadcasting, and Environment, Forest and Climate Change portfolios. Earlier, Sena leader Arvind Sawant resigned from the Union Cabinet.
- 2. Nilam Sawhney has been appointed as the first woman Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh. Note: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Government of India (GoI) has approved her appointment on November 13, 2019. She will replace Neerabh Kumar, who has been holding additional charge as the CS, following the sudden transfer of LV Subramanyam, a week ago.
- Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde sworn in as the 47th Chief Justice of India.
 Note: Justice SA Bobde succeeds Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi. Justice Bobde was born in Nagpur (Maharashtra) and is the son of Arvind Shriniwas Bobde, an eminent senior advocate.
- 4. Gotabaya Rajapakasa has been sworn-in as new President of Sri Lanka. Note: He will succeed President Maithripala Sirisena for a five-year term. Rajapaksa secured 52.25% votes (6,924,255) while Sajith Premadasa received 41.99% votes. Gotabaya is the younger brother of former President (from 2005 to 2015) Mahinda Rajapksa and served as defence secretary during the end of LTTE war.
- 5. Justice Dr Ravi Ranjan took oath as the 13th Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court. Note: Governor Draupadi Murmu administered the oath to Justice Ravi Ranjan at the Raj Bhavan in Ranchi (Jharkhand capital). Justice Ranjan was a judge in the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The post was lying vacant since May this year after the former Chief Justice, Anirudh Bose was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court.
- 6. Justice Akil Abdulhamid Kureshi was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of Tripura High Court. Note: Governor Ramesh Bais administered the oath of office at Raj Bhavan in Agartala. The Tripura High Court established on 23 March 2013, after making suitable amendments in the Constitution of India and North-Eastern Areas (Re-organisation) Act, 1971.
- 7. Mahinda Rajapaksa has been sworn in as the new Prime minister of -- Sri Lanka. Note: Mr. Rajapaksa was sworn in by President Gotabaya Rajapksa (his younger brother).Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa served as two-term President from 2005 to 2015 and was barred from contesting Presidential elections because of the two-term limit.
- 8. Media mogul Subhash Chandra has resigned as Chairman of the Zee Entertainment Enterprises' board. Note: Mr. Chandra will continue as a non-executive director, which he founded in 1992. Subhash Chandra resigns to comply with a rule mandating that Chairman can't be related to MD & CEO. Zee board appoints six independent directors; all the appointments will have to be approved by the shareholders.
- 9. Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray took oath as the chief minister (18th) of Maharashtra state. Note: Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari administered the oath ceremony at Shivaji Park in Mumbai. Mr. Thackeray is the third Shiv Sena leader to hold the post after Manohar Joshi (1995–1999) and Narayan Rane (1 Feb- 17 Oct1999).

Sports News

- Sri Lanka has become the 1st South Asian country to call match-fixing a crime. Note: Sri Lanka has become the first South Asian nation to criminalize several offenses related to match-fixing. Sri Lanka parliament passed all three readings of a bill labeled "Prevention of Offences Related to Sports".
- Indian state Punjab will host the Kabaddi World Cup 2019.
 Note: The tournament will be dedicated to the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji(1 to 9 December). Nine teams -- India, USA, Australia, England, Sri Lanka, Kenya, New Zealand, Pakistan, and Canada -- are expected to take part in the tournament.
- 3. Veteran coach Arsene Wenger has been named FIFA's Chief of global football development.



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Note: He will be responsible for the growth of the game for both men and women around the world and would also be the leading authority on technical matters, including potential changes to the sport's laws. Wenger made the Gunners one of the strongest sides in Europe, winning three Premier League titles and seven FA Cups and taking his team to the 2006 Champions League final

- **4.** Indian sprinter **Dutee Chand** has been named in the TIME 100 list of the most influential persons in the world. **Note:** The list, an initiative of TIME magazine, highlights 100 rising stars who are shaping the future of business, entertainment, sports, politics, health, science, activism, etc.
- 5. England has qualified for the UEFA Euro 2020 football tournament. Note: Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 99th international goal as Portugal secured its place at the Euro 2020 finals. Portugal are the defending champions, having won the 2016 edition. For the first time, the video assistant referee (VAR) system will be used at the UEFA European Championship.
- 6. Greek tennis player **Stefanos Tsitsipas** has won the ATP Finals in London. **Note:** It is Tsitsipas's third title of the season and comes a year after he was crowned champion at the Next Gen ATP Finals in Milan. Tsitsipas had qualified for the finals after defeating six-time champion Roger Federer in the semi-finals.
- 7. Indian women have clinched five gold, while men bagged two silver at Asian Youth Boxing Championship in Mongolia. Note: All five women finalists, Naorem Chanu (51kg), Vinka (64kg) Sanamacha Chanu (75kg), Poonam (54kg) and Sushma (81kg) won Gold for the country in a phenomenal sweep. Among the men, Selay Soy (49kg) and Ankit Narwal (60kg) settled for the second place after going down in their respective summit clashes.
- 8. Harmeet Desai has won men's singles Gold medal at International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Challenge Indonesia Open 2019 Table Tennis tournament.
- Note: Harmeet defeated compatriot Amalraj Anthony by 11-9, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9, 10-12, 11-9 score.
- 9. Korean teenager Joohyung Kim has won the 2019 Panasonic Open India held at Gurgaon, Haryana. Note: India's Shiv Kapur and Chikkarangappa S finished tied second. With this win, the Joohyung Kim has become the second-youngest winner on the Asian Tour.
- 10. Spanish striker has announced his retirement from football -- David Villa. Note: David Villa retired from the national team with 59 goals in 98 matches, making him Spain's all-time top goalscorer as well as the country's top scorer in the World Cup, with nine goals.
- 11. India-Pakistan Davis Cup tie shifted to Kazakhstan capital Nur-Sultan from Islamabad. Note: The Devis Cup tie was scheduled to be held in September but was pushed to 29-30 November after India expressed concerns about the safety of their players. The side will be led by top singles players Sumit Nagal and Ramkumar Ramanathan while veteran Leander Paes and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan are likely to pair up for the doubles
- 12. Belgian-Dutch racing driver has won the Formula One Brazilian Grand Prix 2019 -- Max Verstappen (with Red Bull) Note: The Ferraris of Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc clashed in the race due to which Verstappen was able to take the lead and ultimately win the race. Pierre Gasly (France) was on the second position and was the first podium position for him while Lewis Hamilton remained on the third.
- **13. Manu Bhaker** has become the second Indian shooter to win a gold medal Women's 10m Air Pistol at the ISS World Cup 2019.

Note: Serbia's Zorana Arunovic won the silver with 241.9, while Quian Wang of China bagged the bronze with 221.8. Manu Bhaker shot 244.7 to win the gold medal at World Cup Finals.

- 14. Rafael Nadal has clinched 6th Davis Cup title for Spain. Note: Nadal (33-year) defeated Shapovalov 6-3, 7-6 (9-7) to clinch Spain's 2-0 win against Canada. It was the Spanish team's first Davis Cup title since 2011 and their sixth Davis Cup title overall. In 2019, Nadal won the French Open and the US Open, made the Australian Open final and reached the Wimbledon semi-final.
- 15. India's Lakshya Sen has won the Scottish Open men's singles title in Glasgow. Note: Lakshya Sen defeated Ygor Coelho 18-21, 21-18, 21-19 to seal his fourth title in three months. Within a month, Lakshya won his first BWF Super 100 title at the Dutch Open, with the second one coming soon after, at the SaarLorLux Open in Germany
- 16. India concluded its campaign at the Under-15 Asian Championships with 28 medals (13 gold, 14 silver and a bronze). Note: For the first time, India finished on top of the team rankings in freestyle category with 225 points as all 10 wrestlers finished on the podium. Kazakhstan finished second while Japan was third.
- **17. Sangram Dahiya and Varsha Varman** clinched double trap titles, winning gold at the 63rd National Shotgun Shooting Championship in New Delhi.

Note: In the men's category, Sangram shot 142 out of 150 targets to clinch the gold medal. Former world champion Ankur Mittal has won Silver and Prithvi Singh Chahal bronze.

18. Eliud Kipchoge & Dalilah Muhammad won the World Athlete of the Year awards. Note: Kipchoge claimed the prize in Monaco after making history last month when he ran the marathon distance of 42.195 kilometres (26.219 miles) in 1hr 59min 40.2sec. American Muhammad won her award after a magnificent year that saw her set a world record of 52.20 seconds at the US Trials in Iowa in July breaking a record that had stood since 2003. The



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winners were chosen following a vote shared 50% by World Athletics, 25% by athletes, coaches and journalists and 25% by the general public.

19. India won the bid to host **2023 Men's Hockey** World Cup.

Note: Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar and Biju Patnaik Hockey Stadium Stadium in Rourkela to be the venues for the tournament. Bhubaneswar has hosted some big international sporting events, including the 2017 Asian Athletics Championships, 2017 FIH Hockey World League Final, FIH Men's Series Finals in 2019.

20. Abhishek Verma & Jyothi Surekha Vennam claimed the gold in compound mixed pair event at the **21st Asian Archery** Championships, in Bangkok.

Note: The Indians defeated Chinese Taipei opponents Yi-Hsuan Chen and Chieh-Luh Chen 158-151 in the final clash. India picked up seven medals including one gold, two silver and four bronze meddles in the event. The Indian archers participated in the tournament as neutral athletes under the World Archery flag due to the suspension of the national federation Archery Association of India (AAI).

21. Deepika Kumari has won gold medal in the women's individual recurve event of the 21st Asian Championships in Bangkok.

Note: Deepika defeated Ankita 6-0 in the one-sided final. Earlier, the duo had secured an individual Olympic quota for the country by storming into the semi-finals of the event.

22. Sports Ministry has constituted a 13-member expert committee to review the Draft National Sports Code -- Justice Mukundakam Sharma.

Note: Former sports persons Gagan Narang, Bhaichung Bhutia, Anju Bobby George and national badminton coach Pulella Gopichand are part of the panel. The panel has been formed to suggest measures to make the Sports Code acceptable to all the stakeholders. It will try to strike a balance between the autonomy of National Sports Federations vis-a-vis need for transparency and autonomy.

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