

# WEEKLY G.K.

**20 January - 26 January 2020**

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## National News

### 1. 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.
- ✚ The National Award winner Children actor, Talha Arsalan Rishi will inaugurate the festival.
- ✚ Besides the screening of films, an exhibition on the children's film festival will also be organised.

### 2. 50th World Economic Forum to be held in Switzerland; Union Minister Piyush Goyal to lead Indian delegation.

- ✚ The four day 50th World Economic Forum at Davos in Switzerland will begin on 21 January. 53 heads of state or government from 117 countries are participating in the event.
- ✚ The theme of this year's WEF is 'Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World'. Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal will lead the Indian delegation.
- ✚ Among other highlights of the forum is Indian actress Deepika Padukone, who will be given a WEF crystal award for her work on mental health while the US rapper William Adams will be talking about ending gun violence.

### 3. Kiren Rijiju and Pramod Sawant flag off 'Fit India Cyclothon' in Panaji.

- ✚ The Fit India Mission under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports organized the inaugural event of 'Fit India Cyclothon' event in Panaji.
- ✚ The Cyclothon was flagged off by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju and Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant from the Campal Parade Ground in the city.
- ✚ The Cyclothon event witnessed participation by over 500 cycling enthusiasts who came together to cycle through a five-kilometre stretch within the Panaji city.

#### Foot Notes:

Panaji, also known as Panjim, is the state capital of Goa

#### About Goa

**Chief Minister:** Pramod Sawant

**Capital:** Panaji (Executive Branch)

**Governor:** Satya Pal Malik

### 4. 3rd Edition of North Zone Conference of MIB's of Media Units held in Jammu.

- ✚ The 3rd edition of North Zone Conference' of Media Units of Information and Broadcasting Ministry, held in Jammu. The Conference is being organised by the Regional Outreach Bureau, Jammu and Kashmir region.

#### Foot Notes:

**About Jammu and Kashmir**

**Lieutenant Governors:** Girish Chandra Murmu.

### 5. Delhi CM launches 'Guarantee card' of upcoming assembly elections in the national capital.

- ✚ Aam Aadmi Party national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched party's Guarantee Card ahead of upcoming assembly elections in the national capital.
- ✚ This card lists 10 promises that AAP will deliver on if it is elected to rule Delhi again.
- ✚ The card, '10 guarantees of Kejriwal', also promised to continue the scheme for free electricity up to 200 units, free health facilities and to plant two crore saplings in the national capital over the next five years.

**6. For the 1st time, Govt to collect data including families headed by transgenders for census 2021.**

- ✚ According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the central government, for the 1st time, will collect data on households headed by a transgender and members living in the family for census 2021. Previously, the choice of the head of the household was gender – male or female.
- ✚ The census 2021 will be done through a mobile phone application, deviating from the traditional pen and paper.
- ✚ The census has been conducted in India since 1872 without outbreak. It is conducted every 10 years. 2021 is not only the 16th census but also 8th after independence. The Census Act, 1948 and the Census Rules, 1990 provide the legal framework in conducting the Census.

**Foot Notes:****About Ministry of Home Affairs****Founded:** 15 August 1947**Headquarters:** New Delhi**Union minister:** Shri Amit Shah**Minister of State (MoS):** G.Kishan Reddy and Nityanand Rai**7. 50th Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum begins in Davos.**

- ✚ The 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, a congregation of rich and powerful from across the world, opens in Davos, Switzerland.
- ✚ Commerce and Industry Minister will lead the Indian delegation to the WEF. Besides, over 100 CEOs, political leaders including Union Ministers and Chief Ministers will take part in the 50th edition of the annual event.
- ✚ The welcome message was followed by the annual crystal awards and this year's recipients included celebrity film star Deepika Padukone.

**Foot Notes:****Commerce and Industry Minister:** Piyush Goyal**8. Haryana Assembly ratifies 126th Constitutional Amendment Bill.**

- ✚ The Haryana Assembly ratified the 126th Constitutional Amendment Bill, passed by the Parliament in December last year.
- ✚ Earlier, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra and Bihar Assemblies had ratified the Bill, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Minister of Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad on December 9, 2019. The Bill amends provisions related to reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- ✚ The Constitution provides for reservation of seats for SCs and STs and representation of the Anglo-Indian community by nomination in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of states. This has been provided for a period of 70 years since the enactment of the Constitution and will expire on January 25, 2020. The Bill seeks to extend the reservation for SCs and STs by another 10 years till January 25, 2030.

**Foot Notes:****About Haryana****Capital:** Chandigarh**Governor:** Satyadev Narayan Arya**CM:** Manohar Lal Khattar**9. Uttarakhand becomes first state to implement agricultural land leasing policy.**

- ✚ Uttarakhand has become the first state in the country where the government has made a policy to lease agricultural land. In lieu of giving land on a 30-year lease, the concerned farmer will get the rent for the land.

- ✦ In the hilly areas of the state, the obstacles of leasing land for farming, agriculture, horticulture, herbs, off-season vegetables, milk production, tea plantation, fruit hybridization and solar energy has been removed with this step.
- ✦ After getting approval from the Raj Bhavan, the state government has issued its notification. Now any institution, company, firm or NGO can take farm land on lease in villages, leasing a maximum of 30 acres of land on lease for 30 years.

**Foot Notes:****About Uttarakhand****Capital:** Dehradun**Chief minister:** Trivendra Singh Rawat**Governor:** Baby Rani Maurya**10. Hyderabad becomes most dynamic city in the world, tops JLL City Momentum Index 2020.**

- ✦ Hyderabad secured the first place in the list of the world's most dynamic cities. Jones Lang Lasalle (JLL) has recently released the city momentum index that comprised of 129 cities across the world. JLL evaluated 129 cities and selected Hyderabad as the world's most dynamic city.
- ✦ Top-20 dynamic cities in the world: Hyderabad, Bangalore, Ho Chi Minh City, Nairobi, Chennai, Delhi, Ha Noi, Manila, Silicon Valley, Schengen, Chongqing, Pune, Wuhan, Dubai, Hangzhou, Calcutta, Shanghai, Riyadh, Austin, Mumbai.
- ✦ There are seven Indian cities are present in the top-20 cities. Bangalore ranked second in this index while Chennai secured fifth and Delhi got the sixth position.

**Foot Notes:****About Jones Lang LaSalle(JLL)****Headquarters:** Chicago, Illinois, United States**CEO:** Christian Ulbrich**Founder:** Richard Winstanley**11. Jharia most polluted place in India in 2018, Greenpeace report.**

- ✦ Jharia, known worldwide for its underground coal fires, continued to be the most polluted city in the country in 2018, according to Airpocalypse-IV, an annual report released by Greenpeace India.
- ✦ The report, based on analysis of particulate matter data across 287 cities, said Delhi was 10th most polluted city in 2018, an improvement by two ranks as compared to 2017.
- ✦ Lunglei in Mizoram was the least polluted city in India, followed by Meghalaya's Dowki, according to the report. Six of the top-10 polluted cities are in Uttar Pradesh: Noida, Ghaziabad, Bareilly, Allahabad, Moradabad and Firozabad.

**12. Government of Maharashtra makes the reading of Preamble mandatory in Maharashtra schools.**

- ✦ Maharashtra Government has made the reading of the Preamble of the Constitution mandatory for the Maharashtra schools.
- ✦ The reading will be done after prayer in all primary and secondary schools in Maharashtra.

**Foot Notes:****About Maharashtra****Chief Minister:** Uddhav Thackeray**Governor:** Bhagat Singh Koshyari.**13. India ranked 51st in the 2019 Democracy Index.**

- ✦ India ranked 51st in the Democracy Index 2019. It has dropped 10 places in the Democracy Index's global ranking. The survey described the erosion of civil liberties in India as the primary cause of democratic regression.
- ✦ The index referred to the changes in Jammu & Kashmir and the controversial implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam as the democratic regression.

- ✦ The index is based on the functioning of government, electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, political participation, and political culture.

**Foot Notes:**

Norway topped EIU's index with a score of 9.87

North Korea ranked last of the global rankings, with a score of 1.08.

China ranked 153rd with a score of 2.26.

**EIU's headquarter:** London, United Kingdom

**Managing director of EIU:** Robin view

**14. Cabinet gives approval to EC to enter into MoU with Election Commissions of Tunisia and Papua New Guinea.**

- ✦ The Cabinet gave approval to the Election Commission of India to enter into MoU with the Independent High Authority for Elections of Tunisia and the Papua New Guinea Election Commission.
- ✦ The MoU has been signed for elections for cooperation in the field of electoral management and administration.
- ✦ The Cabinet also gave its nod for the four agreements between India and Brazil in the field of oil and natural gas, Geology and Mineral Resources, mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and cooperation in the field of early childhood care.

**15. Ghana will replicate the Ujjwala model of LPG connection under the guidance of India.**

- ✦ Indian Oil has signed a MoU with the National Petroleum Authority (NPA) of Ghana for providing its assistance and technical expertise in the implementation of Ghana's National LPG Promotion Policy.
- ✦ LPG coverage in Ghana is 23%. Citizens of Ghana spend hours together at petrol stations to refill their cylinders. Ghana is to fix the issues around LPG with India's support. Ghana inspired by India's bottling plants of LPG is to implement its replica aiming to cover 50% of population in the initial stage.
- ✦ India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ghana to provide assistance in Ghana's National LPG Promotion Policy. The MoU will strengthen cooperation between the countries and will increase the support offered to National Petroleum Authority of Ghana by India.

**Foot Notes:**

**About Ghana**

**Capital:** Accra

**Currency:** Ghanaian cedi

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**16. Uttar Pradesh government implements 'Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana' for the farmers in the state.**

- ✦ Uttar Pradesh government has implemented 'Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana' for the farmers in the state. The assistance of Rs 5 lakh will be provided to the farmers' family in case of farmer's death or disabled due to the accident. The age limit of the scheme is between 18 to 70 years.
- ✦ This scheme is fully funded by the government of UP.
- ✦ Within 45 days, the beneficiaries will receive the amount under this scheme. UP government will launch a web portal for this scheme for its easy access.
- ✦ The amount will be adjusted for the person who are already receiving benefits from Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana or any other schemes which are provided by the government.



**Foot Notes:****About Uttar Pradesh****Capital city:** Lucknow**Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath**Governor:** Anandiben Patel**17. Airtel joins hands with Google cloud to bring G Suite to Indian SMBs.**

- ✚ Bharti Airtel Limited (also known as Airtel), an Indian global telecommunications services company, has entered into the partnership with cloud computing services provider Google Cloud, under which Airtel will offer services provided by Google's G Suite to small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) in India, which are already clients of Airtel's information and communications technology (ICT) services.
- ✚ The G Suite consists of Gmail, Docs, Drive, Calendar and more – apps designed with real-time collaboration & machine intelligence to enhance productivity.
- ✚ Airtel has a subscriber base of 325 Million in India, serves to over 2500 large businesses and over 500,000 SMBs. Microsoft also partnered with Reliance Jio to target small and medium businesses in India.

**Foot Notes:****About Bharti Airtel Ltd****Headquarters:** New Delhi**Chairman:** Sunil Bharti Mittal**MD & CEO (India and South Asia):** Gopal Vittal**About Google Cloud****Launched:** April 7, 2008**CEO:** Thomas Kurian**18. Nepal invites PM Modi for Sagarmatha dialogue.**

- ✚ Nepal has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the first Sagarmatha Sambaad forum to be held here in April. The first edition of the 'Sagarmatha Sambaad' is scheduled to be held from April 2 to 4 on the theme "Climate Change, Mountains and the Future of Humanity".
- ✚ SAARC countries, including Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan have been invited.
- ✚ The Sambaad (dialogue) is named after the world's tallest mountain Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) which is also a symbol of friendship.

**Foot Notes:****About Nepal****Capital:** Kathmandu**Currency:** Nepalese rupee**Prime minister:** KP Sharma Oli**19. This year, Republic Day ceremony was started from War Memorial, not India Gate.**

- ✚ Changing a decades-old tradition, the 71st Republic Day ceremony was not began from India Gate, where the Prime Minister commemorates soldiers who had died in combat for India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid a wreath at the National War Memorial, which was opened on February 25, 2019.
- ✚ Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, Army chief General M M Naravane, Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh and Air Force chief Air Marshal R K S Bhaduria stood behind Modi when he paid homage to the dead soldiers.
- ✚ On March 27 last year, India became only the fourth country to successfully fire an Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) missile under a project named Mission Shakti. Demonstrating this power, the A-SAT missile featured in the parade on this Republic Day.

**20. India took over the chairmanship of FEMBoSA from Bangladesh.**

- ✦ Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora assumed Chairmanship of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) on 24 January for the year 2020. India took over the Chair of FEMBoSA from KM Nurul Huda, CEC of Bangladesh.
- ✦ Mr. Huda handed over the Logo of FEMBoSA to Mr. Arora at the 10th Annual Meeting of FEMBoSA held in New Delhi
- ✦ FEMBoSA was established at the 3rd Conference of Heads of Election Management Bodies of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Countries held at New Delhi in May 2012. FEMBoSA is a regional association Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of SAARC Countries. The forum has eight members. FEMBoSA is an active regional association of EMBs.

## **International News & Foreign Affairs**

**1. China and Myanmar signed 33 agreements to accelerate BRI.**

- ✦ China and Myanmar signed 33 deals on 18 January 2020. The agreements aimed to speed up key infrastructure projects to provide China a stepping stone to the Indian Ocean.
- ✦ The agreement was signed after a meeting between President Xi Jinping and State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi. Suu Kyi was on a two-day visit to China. He held talks with Xi on the final day of his two-day visit.
- ✦ The agreements covered areas such as politics, investment, trade, and people-to-people communications for China's flagship Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

**Foot Notes:****About Myanmar****President:** Win Myint**State Counsellor:** Aung San Suu Kyi**Currency:** Kyat**Capital:** Naypyidaw**2. Social Mobility Index: India ranks low at 76th place; Denmark tops.**

- ✦ India has been ranked very low at 76th place out of 82 countries on a new Social Mobility Index compiled by the World Economic Forum. Denmark has topped the charts.
- ✦ The report, released ahead of the 50th Annual Meeting of the WEF, also lists India among the five countries that stand to gain the most from a better social mobility score.
- ✦ The top five are all Scandinavian, while the five economies with the most to gain from boosting social mobility are China, the United States, India, Japan and Germany.

**Foot Notes:****About Denmark****Capital:** Copenhagen**Currency:** Danish Krone**3. Iranian Film 'Castle of Dreams' gets Best Film Award at Dhaka International Film Festival.**

- ✦ The Iranian film 'Castle of Dreams' directed by Reza Mirakarimi won the Best Film Award in Asian Competition section of the 18th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF).
- ✦ The film also won the Best Director Award. Information Minister of Bangladesh Hasan Mahmud gave away the award carrying prize money of Tk 1 lakh, a citation in the closing ceremony held in Dhaka.
- ✦ Indian film 'Finally Love' directed by Anjan Dutt bagged Best Audience Award in Cinema of the World Category. The theme of this year's festival was 'better film, better audience, better society'.

**Foot Notes:****About Dhaka**

Dhaka is the capital city of Bangladesh

**About Bangladesh**

**Capital:** Dhaka

**Currency:** Bangladeshi taka

**Prime minister:** Sheikh Hasina

**4. Claims against India under Bilateral International Treaty dismissed.**

- ✦ The Bilateral International Treaty organization, an international arbitration tribunal recently dismissed all the claims against India.
- ✦ The claims against India was brought the organization by private firms in Cyprus and Russia. The claims were under Agreement between Government of Russian Federation and Cyprus for promotion and protection of investments. The claims have now been dismissed completely.
- ✦ BIT is an agreement that was established for FDI(Foreign direct investment). It allows countries to set up rules for investments between each other. The treaty is the successor of the 19th century friendship, commerce and navigation treaty. The first BIT was signed between Pakistan and Germany.

**5. France to train Indian flight surgeons for the Gaganyaan mission.**

- ✦ France will train Indian flight surgeons to enable them to monitor the health of astronauts selected for the ambitious human space mission Gaganyaan. The two-week training is a critical aspect of the Gaganyaan project that is aimed at sending three Indians to space by 2022.
- ✦ The flight surgeons, who will be Indian Air Force doctors specialising in aviation medicines and responsible for the health of astronauts before, during and after flight, will be shortlisted soon.
- ✦ The four shortlisted astronauts, all test pilots from the Indian Air Force, are currently in Russia for an 11-month training programme.

**Foot Notes:****About France**

**President:** Emmanuel Macron

**Capital:** Paris

**Currency:** Euro

**6. Global Talent Competitive Index 2020: India improves eight ranks to 72, Switzerland tops the list.**

- ✦ Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) 2020 has been released at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) on January 22, 2020. INSEAD Business School released the GTCI report with the help of Google and Adecco Group.
- ✦ This year India climbed eight ranks and secured the 72nd rank in the index. Switzerland is in the first place while the USA and Singapore grabbed the second and third positions respectively. This index shows the ability of countries to make the world progress, retain and attract talent. They are ranked based on their abilities.

**Foot Notes:**

**First position:** Switzerland

**Second position:** USA

**Third position:** Singapore

**7. Lebanon announces formation of new Government headed by Prime minister “Hassan Diab”.**

- ✦ Lebanon, which has been rocked by anti-government protests for the last several months, finally has a new government. The presidency announced the formation of the new government after Hezbollah and its allies clinched a deal on a cabinet that must tackle the country's worst economic crisis in decades.
- ✦ The new government headed by Prime Minister Hassan Diab, a 60-year old professor at the American University of Beirut, will consist of 20 ministers-technocrats.



- ✦ The country has been hit by protests since October last year against the ruling political class.

#### **8. Scholars from India and Russia participate in the first Ganga-Volga Dialogue of Civilizations held in New Delhi.**

- ✦ Eminent scholars from India and Russia participated in the first Ganga-Volga Dialogue of Civilizations earlier wherein they deliberated upon the existing and emerging spheres of bilateral cooperation between the two countries, the Ministry of External Affairs.
- ✦ As many as 15 scholars from Russia and India spoke at the dialogue upon the four broad themes in the context of India-Russia bilateral cooperation, namely, education, culture and civilization; entrepreneurship and innovation; trade routes including inland navigation; India, Russia and Greater Eurasia.

#### **Foot Notes:**

**Minister of External Affairs:** Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

#### **9. European Commission's President "Ursula von der Leyen" and European council's President "Charles Michel", signed the Withdrawal Agreement ahead of BREXIT day.**

- ✦ 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 47 years of run in the European Union partner.
- ✦ 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.

## **New Appointments and Person in News**

#### **1. Centre appoints Nripendra Misra as chairman of NMML executive council.**

- ✦ Former principal secretary to the Prime Minister, Nripendra Misra, has been appointed chairperson of the executive council of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML).
- ✦ According to a government order, the Executive Council of the NMML has been reconstituted and it will be now chaired by Mr Misra.
- ✦ Mr Misra is a 1967-batch retired IAS officer. The Nehru Memorial Museum & Library is a museum and library in New Delhi, which aims to preserve and reconstruct the history of the Indian independence movement.

#### **2. Ashish Garg elected President of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI).**

- ✦ The Company Secretaries Institute has a new President in Ashish Garg for the year 2020. Nagendra D Rao, a fellow member of ICSI, has been elected Vice-President of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI).
- ✦ Garg is a Post Graduate in Economics (M A), Commerce (M Com) and a graduate in law (LLB). He was elected to the central council of ICSI for the term 2015-18 and re-elected for the term 2019-22.

#### **3. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw becomes 4th Indian to receive highest Australian civilian honour.**

- ✦ Australia has conferred its highest civilian honour, the Order of Australia honour to Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, founder and chairperson of biopharmaceutical company Biocon and appointed as an honorary member in the general division of the Order of Australia by Australia's High Commissioner to India Ms. Harinder Sidhu at a ceremony in Leela Palace, Bengaluru, Karnataka. She is the fourth Indian citizen to be awarded Australia's highest civilian honour.
- ✦ The award is given to foreign nationals who have extraordinarily contributed to Australia or for humanity.

- ✦ The Australian civilian honours from India are star batsman Sachin Tendulkar in 2012, Former Attorney General of India Soli Jehangir Sorabjee in 2006 and Mother Teresa (Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu) of Kolkata in 1982.

#### 4. Prince Harry, Meghan Markle sign formal deal to exit from royal family.

- ✦ Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, have signed up to a formal exit deal from the royal family.
- ✦ It will see them forsake their His and Her Royal Highness (HRH) titles and will no longer receive UK taxpayers' funding for their duties. The deal, which comes into effect by spring in a few weeks' time, means the couple will no longer be representing the Queen in an official capacity.
- ✦ Queen Elizabeth II said the agreement followed months of discussions and was a constructive and supportive way forward for her grandson and his family.

#### 5. Challa Sreenivasulu Setty appointed as the MD of SBI.

- ✦ The government-appointed Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the Managing Director (MD) of the State Bank of India (SBI) on 20 January 2020. He is appointed for a period of three years.
- ✦ The proposal of the Department of the Financial Services for the appointment of Setty was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- ✦ His appointment will be with effect from the date of his taking over the charge of the post or until further orders.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About SBI

Chairperson: Rajnish Kumar



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## Banking

#### 1. IMF reduces Indias economic growth forecast to 4.8 percent.

- ✦ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reduced India's economic growth forecast to 4.8% for the current fiscal year. The decline is due to the crisis in the non-banking financial sector (NBFC) and weak rural demand. It has also cut the world's growth estimate.
- ✦ The IMF projection, 1.3% points lower than its earlier estimates, is less than the 5% projected by the official advance estimates. The IMF projected India's economy to grow by 5.8% next year. It is 1.2% points less than its earlier forecast.
- ✦ The IMF estimated world economic growth at 1.9% for 2019, 0.1% point lower than its earlier forecast.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About IMF

Managing Director: Kristalina Georgieva

Chief Economist: Gita Gopinath

**2. Vodafone m-pesa's Certificate of Authorization cancelled by RBI.**

- ✦ The Certificate of Authorization (CoA) of Vodafone m-pesa has been cancelled by Reserve Bank of India.
- ✦ Vodafone Idea closed the m-pesa after getting merged with the Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Limited in 2019.

**Foot Notes:****About Vodafone M-pesa Limited****Formation:** 13 September 2014.**Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra.**About RBI****Governor:** Shaktikanta Das**Headquarters:** Mumbai**Deputy Governor:** N S Vishwanathan, B P Kanungo, M K Jain and Michael Debabrata Patra**3. India's foreign exchange reserves touch a life-time high of USD 462.16 billion.**

- ✦ The country's foreign exchange reserves rose USD 943 million to touch a life-time high of USD 462.16 billion according to the latest data from the RBI.
- ✦ In the previous week, the reserves had increased by USD 58 million to USD 461.21 billion.
- ✦ Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

## Science Tech & Defence

**1. Russia to deliver S-400 air defence systems to India by 2025.**

- ✦ Russia said it has started production of S-400 long-range surface-to-air missile systems for India, and all five units will be delivered by 2025. In October 2018, India signed a USD 5 billion deal to buy the air defence missile systems.
- ✦ Russian Deputy Chief of Mission Roman Babushkin also said that a contract will be finalised shortly for joint production of Kamov lightweight multi-role military helicopters for India.
- ✦ The Indian Armed forces will receive the first batch of 5,000 Kalashnikov rifles this year as well. These will be produced in India under a joint venture.

**Foot Notes:****About Russia****President:** Vladimir Putin**Capital:** Moscow**Currency:** Russian Ruble**2. DRDO successfully test fired K-4 ballistic missile from an underwater platform.**

- ✦ India has successfully test-fired nuclear-capable K-4 ballistic missile off the coast in Andhra Pradesh on 19 January 2020. The missile was launched from a 3500 kilometer strike range nuclear-capable submarine, underwater platform. The missile was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ✦ K-4 ballistic missile will be equipped on indigenous INS Arihant class nuclear-powered submarines of the Indian Navy. The missile has a range of around 1,500 km.
- ✦ K-4 missile is one of the two underwater missiles that were being developed by DRDO. DRDO's other underwater missile is the over 700 kilometre strike range BO-5 missile.

**Foot Notes:****Headquarters location:** New Delhi**Founded:** 1958**Motto:** बलस्य मूलं विज्ञानम्; "Strength's Origin is in Science" (Sanskrit)**Chairpersons:** Satheesh Reddy**3. Indian Air Force inducts BrahMos-armed Sukhoi-30MKI fighter squadron at Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur.**

- ✦ The Sukhoi-30MKI fighter aircraft was inducted at Thanjavur airbase equipped with 'special weapon' BrahMos supersonic cruise missile that will manage the requirements in the Indian Ocean.
- ✦ The integration of the air-launched version of the BrahMos missile with the SU-30MKI fighter has been done fully indigenously by BrahMos Aerospace, HAL and the Air Force. The Su-30 MKI is a state-of-the-art all-weather multi-role fighter aircraft capable of undertaking varied air defence, ground attack and maritime missions.

**Foot Notes:****Chief of Air Staff:** Air Chief Marshal R.K. Bhadauria**4. Start Up India-first time in Republic Parade; Indian Navy to showcase its tableau.**

- ✦ The Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) operating under Ministry of Commerce and Industry is to showcase tableau on Start Up India at the Republic Day Parade to be held at Rajpath, New Delhi. The tableau is to be held under the theme Reach for the sky.
- ✦ It is with the same theme the Indian Navy week was celebrated. It will showcase the fire power of Navy in all three dimensions namely sub-surface, surface and air.
- ✦ The Kalvari class submarine, Harpoon missiles, MiG 29K fighter jets are to be part of the Tableau.

**Foot Notes:****Chief of Indian Navy:** Admiral Karambir Singh**5. Indian Army to induct indigenously upgraded Artillery gun 'Sharang' by March 31, 2020.**

- ✦ Indian Army (IA) has announced to induct 1st batch of 18 indigenously upgraded 'Sharang' artillery guns by March 31, 2020. The announcement was made by the Programme Coordinator of Sharang Brigadier Jayant Kar.
- ✦ Sharang: The artillery gun's barrel upgraded from 130mm to 155mm has a strike range of 39 kilometres and has gone integrated firing range from 0-45 degrees in its trial at the Long Proof Range of Ordnance Factory Khamaria, 16 kilometers from Jabalpur district headquarters in Madhya Pradesh. Previously the strike range was 27 kilometers.
- ✦ The contract to upgrade the Sharang artillery gun was undertaken by Gun Carriage Factory (GCF) in Jabalpur with the help of state-owned ordnance factories, and teams from the Army and DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation)

**Foot Notes:****Chief of Indian Army:** Manoj Mukund Naravane**6. Pakistan tests nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile 'Ghaznavi' of 290-km range**

- ✦ Pakistan conducted a successful training launch of nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile 'Ghaznavi', which can strike targets up to 290 kilometers.
- ✦ "The training launch was part of Field Training Exercise of Army Strategic Forces Command aimed at rehearsing operational readiness procedures during day and night," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the army.
- ✦ The launch was witnessed by Lt Gen Nadeem Zaki Manj, Director General Strategic Plans Division, Commander Army Strategic Forces Command, senior officers from Strategic Plans Division, Army Strategic Forces Command, Scientists and Engineers of the strategic organisations, according to the state-run Radio Pakistan.

**Foot Notes:****About Pakistan****Prime minister:** Imran Khan**Capital:** Islamabad**Currency:** Pakistani rupee**President:** Arif Alvi

## Important Days

**1. Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti is celebrated on 23 January.**

- ✚ Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti is celebrated on 23 January 2020. The day marks the 124th birth anniversary of Bose. Subhash Chandra Bose's birth anniversary commemorates his contribution to India's struggle for independence.
- ✚ Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was born in Cuttack, Odisha on 23 January 1897. He ranked second in the matriculation examination and fourth in the Indian Civil Services (ICS) examination.
- ✚ He quit his ICS job and came back to India from England in 1921. He joined India's freedom struggle movement. He was a member of the Indian National Congress (INC). He introduced the famous slogan 'Jai Hind'. He revamped the Indian National Army (INA).

**2. National girl child day was celebrated on 24th January to spread awareness about inequalities faced by girl child.**

- ✚ India celebrates National Girl Child Day on January 24 annually. It was initiated by Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2008.
- ✚ The aim of the day is to spread awareness about inequalities faced by girls in the country. It also promotes awareness about rights of girl child.
- ✚ Also, it increases importance of health, education and nutrition of girl child. The National Girl Child Day also spreads various atrocities faced by girls in their lives.

**Foot Notes:****Ministry of Women and Child Development:** Smriti Irani**3. National Voters' Day was celebrated on 25th January.**

- ✚ The Government of India observes 25 January every year as "National Voters' Day".
- ✚ It started on January 25, 2011 to mark the Election Commission's foundation day. The theme for National Voters Day this year is "Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy".
- ✚ The purpose of this day is to make people aware of their voting rights and to attract more people, mostly the newly eligible younger generation, to vote and contribute to the electoral political process.

**Foot Notes:****Chief Election Commissioner of India:** Sunil Arora



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## Books and Authors

### 1. Book titled *The Story of Yoga: From India to the Contemporary World* by Alistair Shearer released.

- ✦ Book titled “first definitive history” of Yoga, “The Story of Yoga: From India to the Contemporary World” has been written by Scottish cultural historian Alistair Shearer, will be released by the end of January, 2020 and published by Penguin Random House. The book discusses about the practice of yoga since ancient time in India till now.
- ✦ It has been endorsed by the likes of Philip Goldberg, author of “American Veda and the life of Yogananda”, John Zubrzycki, author of *Empire of Enchantment: The Story of Indian Magic* and author-politician Shashi Tharoor.

## Sports

### 1. Two-day SQAY competition kicks off in Madhya Pradesh.

- ✦ The two-day SQAY competition is being organized at Sports Authority of India (SAI) in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ✦ The under-21 category tournament is organized under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' campaign.
- ✦ SQAY is a martial art form of Central Asia, in which the players show the skills of fencing. Experts say that the martial art form originated in Kashmir.
- ✦ In this competition, teams from eight states across the country including Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Goa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Bihar and Tripura will participate.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Madhya Pradesh

**Governor:** Lalji Tandon

**Capital:** Bhopal

**Chief Minister:** Kamal Nath

### 2. Ratchanok Intanon lifts Indonesia Masters 2020 title.

- ✦ Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon lifted the Indonesia Badminton Masters 2020 women's singles title after defeating Carolina Marin in the summit clash.
- ✦ Intanon defeated Marin 21-19, 11-21, 21-18 in one hour and twenty minutes long match. The clash went into three-games and both the shuttlers tried their 100 per cent to turn things in their favour.
- ✦ Despite losing the first game, the Spanish shuttler made a comeback in the second game and claimed the game by 21-11. Intanon won the match by claiming the third game by 21-18.

### 3. Sania Mirza wins women's doubles title of WTA International trophy at Hobart.

- ✦ In Tennis, Sania Mirza and her Ukrainian partner Nadiia Kichenok have won the women's doubles title of the WTA International trophy at Hobart in Australia.
- ✦ In the final, they beat Shuai Peng and Shuai Zhang of China 6-4, 6-4.
- ✦ It is Sania's 42nd WTA doubles title and first since Brisbane International trophy in 2007 with American partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands.

### 4. Maharashtra retains “Khelo India Youth Games” champions trophy.

- ✦ Maharashtra retained first place in the Khelo India Youth Games champions trophy with a rich collection of 256 medals, including 78 gold.
- ✦ Haryana came second with 200 medals (68 gold, 60 silver, 72 bronze), followed by Delhi at third with 122 medals (39 gold, 36 silver, 47 bronze).

- ✚ After 13 days of intense competition, Maharashtra won its second Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) trophy in a row.

**Foot Notes:****Governor:** Bhagat Singh Koshyari**Capital:** Mumbai

## Awards

### **1. Priya Prakash CEO of HealthSetGo won the 2019 Global Citizen Prize: Cisco Youth Leadership Award.**

- ✚ Priya Prakash won the Global Citizen Prize: Cisco Youth Leadership Award for 2019. She is the founder and CEO of India-based HealthSetGo.
- ✚ The award recognizes her school health program that aimed to provide 360-degree healthcare support to children.
- ✚ The award honours individuals aged between 18 to 30 who are bringing about a positive change in the world by solving some of its biggest global challenges.

### **2. President Kovind confers Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awards to children.**

- ✚ President Ram Nath Kovind presented the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, 2020 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ✚ The Bal Puraskar is given by the government every year to recognize exceptional achievements of children in various fields. These fields are innovation, scholastic achievements, social service, arts and culture, sports and bravery.
- ✚ The 22 children who were selected for National Bravery Awards also received the awards from the President.

### **3. DMMC, 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. 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.
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### **4. Dipa Chaudhury & Puneet Gupta awarded Romain Rolland Prize for Translation for their Hindi translation of French cartoon series "Asterix".**

- ✚ The Hindi translation of French cartoon series "Asterix" was declared the winner of the 3rd Romain Rolland Prize for Translation at the ongoing Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF).
- ✚ "Dipa Chaudhury and Puneet Gupta of Om Books, who have translated the first three volumes of the 1953 comics series are awarded this year's Romain Rolland prize for translation.

## Obituaries

### 1. Former cricketer Bapu Nadkarni Passes Away.

- ✚ Former India all-rounder cricketer Bapu Nadkarni, who built an extraordinary career with his parsimonious left-arm spin, has died at the age of 86.
- ✚ Nadkarni enjoyed a 13-year international career, during which he played 41 Tests and snared 88 wickets.
- ✚ The legendary cricketer will be best remembered for bowling 21 consecutive maiden overs against England in a Test match in Chennai.
- ✚ He also served as a member of the National Selection Committee and also as the Joint Honorary Secretary of the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA).

### 2. Veteran Odia Hindustani vocalist Sunanda Patnaik passes away at 85.

- ✚ Eminent Indian classical singer and daughter of noted Odia poet Baikunthanath Patnaik, Sunanda Patnaik passed away.
- ✚ Singer of Gwalior gharana of classical music, Sunanda was referred to as 'Guruma' in the classical music circle. Her popular devotional Odia song 'Jeevana Patra Mo Bhariccha Kete Mote' that was penned by her father, still holds a special place in the hearts of Odias.
- ✚ For her contribution to Hindustani classical music, Sunanda was honoured with the Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 1970 and 1971 and the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2012.

### 3. Congress leader Shamsher Singh Surjewala passes away.

- ✚ Veteran Congress leader Shamsher Singh Surjewala has passed away following prolonged illness.
- ✚ Surjewala, father of party leader Randeep Surjewala, breathed his last at the AIIMS hospital in Delhi. Shamsher Surjewala remained a five-time MLA and one-time Rajya Sabha MP.
- ✚ He was also the former president of the Haryana Congress and a former minister. He was the president of the Haryana Krishak Samaj and fought for farmers rights.

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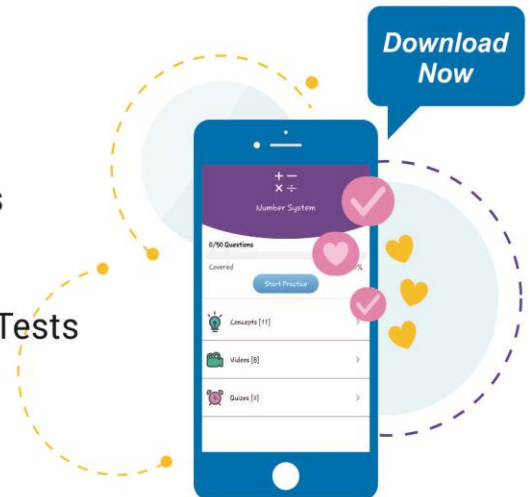
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