

WEEKLY G.K.

13 January - 19 January 2020

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National News

1. Kolkata Port renamed as Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port.

- ✚ The Kolkata Port has been renamed as Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port. The Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi announced this in Kolkata on the occasion of 150th-year celebrations of the Kolkata Port Trust.
- ✚ Mr Modi launched several Port led development projects worth Rs 600 cr rupees to mark the day.
- ✚ On the occasion the Prime Minister released a commemorative stamp on 150th years of the Kolkata Port Trust.

2. India finish 2019 as number one shooting nation in world.

- ✚ According to International Shooting Sport Federation's (ISSF), With its sparkling show through 2019, India finished the year as the top shooting nation in the world, leaving behind Olympic heavyweights China and the USA.
- ✚ In terms of overall medals, the tally stood at 21 gold, six silver and three bronze as India topped all the Rifle-Pistol World Cups and Finals in an unforgettable year.
- ✚ While India leads the standings with 30 medals overall, China is second with 11 gold, 15 silver and 18 bronze for a total of 44 podium finishes. The USA is placed third with 15 medals including six gold six silver and three bronze.

3. Hyderabad Scientist Dr.Saha elected as IUPAC bureau member.

- ✚ Dr.Bipul Bihari Saha of Hyderabad, India has been elected as a bureau member of the IUPAC(International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) for the period 2020-23.Saha is the only second Indian after “Bharat Ratna” Professor Chintamani Nagesa Ramachandra Rao (CNR Rao),to be elected(1979) for this position in a century.
- ✚ IUPAC is the largest global organization of Chemistry professionals and comprises of 12 Committees and 8 Divisions.The Bureau Member are elected considering his/her scientific contribution in the field of Chemistry,his leadership qualities etc.,
- ✚ Saha is a Chief Director of R&D (Research and Development) L.R Research Laboratories is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NACL(Nagarjuna Agrichem Limited) Industries Limited, Hyderabad.Saha has been closely associated with the IUPAC as the Executive Committee Member of “IUPAC Committee on Chemistry and Industry”(First Indian to hold this position),National Representative of India in “IUPAC Division of Chemistry and Environment” and member of “IUPAC Inter-Divisional Committee on Green Chemistry for Sustainable Development”.

Foot Notes:

About IUPAC(International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry):

Headquarters: Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, United States.

Founded: 1919.

Motto: Advancing Chemistry Worldwide.

President: Professor Qi-Feng Zhou (China).

4. Centre promulgated Ordinance to amend coal mining laws.

- ✚ The Central government announced the promulgation of the ordinance for amendment in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 and the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015.
- ✚ Union Cabinet approved the promulgation of Mineral Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2020. The ordinance aims to ease the auction of coal mines, allow Foreign direct investment (FDI) and enhance ease of doing business.
- ✚ The amendments Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 will offer unexplored and partially explored coal blocks for mining through prospecting license-cum-mining lease (PL-cum-ML).It will enable any India-registered company to invest in the coal mining sector and develop coal blocks. The

companies must have prior experience of mining in India to bid for the blocks. It will allow FDI in the coal mining sector by removing the restrictions and eligibility criteria for participation.

Foot Notes:

Minister of Coal: Shri Pralhad Joshi

5. Statue of Unity included in 8 Wonders of SCO; SCO heads meet to be in India.

- ✦ The Statue of Unity that was inaugurated by PM Modi in October 2018 has been included in 8 wonders of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization). The statue was a monumental tribute to Sardar Vallabhai Patel.
- ✦ The Statue was inaugurated on the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel. It is the world's tallest statue. In one year, since its inauguration, it attracted 2.9 million tourists and earned 82 crores of rupees.
- ✦ For the first time, India is hosting heads of Government meet of SCO countries. All the government heads of eight SCO countries India, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan will attend the meeting. However, there are possibilities for Pakistan to skip the meet.

Foot Notes:**About Statue of Unity**

The Statue of Unity is a colossal statue of Indian statesman and independence activist Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who was the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of independent India and the chief adherent of Mahatma Gandhi during the non-violent Indian Independence movement.

About Gujarat

Capital: Gandhinagar

Governor: Acharya Devvrat

Chief minister: Vijay Rupani

6. Dhaka International Film Festival begins in Bangladesh.

- ✦ The 18th edition of the Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) began on 11 January 2020. The festival will be held from 11-19 January. The program was inaugurated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. AK Abdul Momen. The theme for the DIFF festival is Better Film, Better Audience, and Better Society.
- ✦ DIFF aims to create a better understanding of the films of the world in an atmosphere that appreciates film culture. The festival focuses to move towards excellence in the motion picture art and industry in Bangladesh.
- ✦ Rainbow Film Society is being organized the Dhaka International Film Festival since 1992.

Foot Notes:**About Bangladesh**

Capital: Dhaka

Currency: Bangladeshi taka

Prime minister: Sheikh Hasina

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

- ✦ Captain Tania Shergill has been selected to be the first woman parade adjutant for the Republic Day parade. The parade adjutant is responsible for the parade. In the 2019 Republic Day parade. Captain Bhavna Kasturi was the first woman officer to lead an all-men contingent.
- ✦ Captain Tania Shergill is an officer with the Army's Corps of Signals. She was commissioned in March 2017 from the Officer Training Academy, Chennai.
- ✦ She is an electronics and communications graduate. Her father, grandfather and great-grandfather have also served in the Indian Army.

8. Drone registration compulsory by January 31 to avoid legal action.

- ✦ The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked all the people possessing and flying drones to register their gadgets by January 31, 2020.
- ✦ Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) said in a public notice that if they violate the rules then appropriate action will be taken against them under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Aircraft Act.
- ✦ The ministry said in a notice that it has come to the notice of the government that there are some drones and drone operators who do not comply with the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) standards. Drone registration started on January 14, 2020.

Foot Notes:

Civil Aviation Minister: Suresh Prabhu

9. Yogi Adityanath govt implements police commissionerate system in Lucknow, Noida.

- ✦ The Uttar Pradesh government switched to the commissionerate system of policing for Lucknow and Noida, giving magisterial powers to the top cops in both cities.
- ✦ Lucknow and Noida will now have an additional director general level officer as police commissioner.
- ✦ The state government announced the names of the state's first police commissioners senior IPS officers Sujit Pandey for Lucknow and Alok Singh for Noida. The commissioners in both the districts will have magisterial powers.

10. Income Tax Department launched 24x7 control room.

- ✦ Income-Tax Department launched 24x7 control room to monitor black money and illegal inducements in poll-bound Delhi. This facility will also host a toll-free number (1800117574).
- ✦ People can inform the department about any activity of use of money power, illegal distribution of cash etc.
- ✦ Foot Notes:
- ✦ Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes: Pramod Chandra

11. Japan Coast Guard Ship 'Echigo' arrived in Chennai.

- ✦ The Japan Coast Guard Ship 'Echigo' has arrived in Chennai on a five-day goodwill visit. It will be participating in the Annual Joint Exercise 'Sahyog-Kaijin' with the Indian Coast Guard off Chennai.
- ✦ This is the 19th such exercise being conducted between the two Coast Guards since 2000.
- ✦ Four Indian Coast Guard ships, their aircraft and a vessel from the Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology - NIOT are participating in the exercise along with the Japanese vessel.

Foot Notes:

About Japan

Emperor: Naruhito

Capital: Tokyo

Currency: Japanese Yen

12. Retail inflation jumps to about 5-yr high of 7.35 pct in Dec 2019.

- ✦ Retail inflation rose to about five-and-half year high of 7.35 per cent in December 2019, surpassing the RBI's comfort level, mainly due to rise in prices of vegetables as onions. As per the data released by National Statistical Office (NSO), the spike in inflation in the vegetable segment was 60.5 percent during the month compared to December 2018.
- ✦ The overall retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 2.11 per cent in December 2018 and 5.54 per cent in November 2019. The previous high in retail inflation was witnessed at 7.39 per cent in July 2014, the year the Narendra Modi-led Government assumed office for the first term.
- ✦ The Central Government has mandated the Reserve Bank of India to keep inflation in the range of four per cent with a margin of two per cent on the either side.

13. India, Bangladesh ink MoU for co-production of biopic on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

- ✦ India and Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the co-production of a biopic on Bangladesh's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- ✦ The biopic will be directed by acclaimed filmmaker Shyam Benegal and will be released in March 2021 as part of centenary celebrations of Banga Bandhu. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is often called the father of Bengali nation.
- ✦ He served as the first President of Bangladesh and later as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh from 17 April 1971 until his assassination on 15 August 1975.

Foot Notes:**About Bangladesh****Capital:** Dhaka**Currency:** Bangladeshi Taka**Prime minister:** Sheikh Hasina**14. Fox 'jallikattu' organisers in Tamil Nadu warned of punishment.**

- ✦ Forest Department officials in Salem, Tamil Nadu are gearing up to prevent an unusual jallikattu, one that uses foxes (Bengal Fox) instead of bulls.
- ✦ The "Wanga" breed of foxes is tied using ropes and chased across the streets by the villagers on 'Kaanum Pongal'. The villagers observe this practice as they believe the Wanga foxes bring good fortunes and copious rains.
- ✦ Another forest official said the "wanga" foxes are a rare breed and found in dense forest areas in the district.

Foot Notes:**About Tamil Nadu****Chief Minister:** Edappadi K. Palaniswami**Capital:** Chennai**Governor:** Banwarilal Purohit**15. Inscriptions confirm presence of two medieval monasteries at Moghalmari, West Bengal.**

- ✦ Recently, a study of inscriptions on clay tablets excavated from Moghalmari have confirmed the presence of two monasteries.
- ✦ Moghalmari is a Buddhist monastic site of the early medieval period in West Bengal's Paschim Medinipur district.
- ✦ The inscriptions are in Sanskrit and the script is a transitional phase between later north Indian Brahmi and early Siddhamatrika.

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**16. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan to launch 'Saksham', conservation on mega campaign of PCRA on 16th January, 2020.**

- ✦ 'Saksham', an annual one-month long, people-centric fuel conservation mega campaign of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is going to be launched on 16th January by Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Shri Dharmendra Pradhan in a function to be held in Delhi.

- ✦ PCRA and Oil & Gas companies shall carry out various interactive programs during this month-long campaign. Activities like 'Saksham' Cycle Day, Cyclothons, Workshops for drivers of commercial vehicles, Seminars for housewives/cooks on adopting simple fuel saving measure, Nationwide campaign through Radio, TV, Digital Cinemas, Outdoor etc. are planned with an aim to reach the nook and corner of the country with the message of fuel conservation, Greener Environment and better Health.

17. First digital exhibition on Indian Heritage inaugurated in New Delhi.

- ✦ State of Culture and Tourism minister launched a month long exhibition on Indian Heritage in New Delhi. The exhibition was launched in digital space and will stay online till February 15, 2020.
- ✦ This exhibition is first of its kind in the country. The visitors of the exhibition will find architectural and conjectural reconstructions, recreations of socio-cultural traditions and life of Hampi and also many more murals.
- ✦ Through this, the exhibition will take heritage to wider population. It has overcome the barrier that heritage was restricted only to research. When the reach of significance of heritage increases, accountability of citizens increases. This will help to protect age old structures and monuments in a better way.

Foot Notes:

State of Culture and Tourism Minister: Shri Prahlad Singh Patel

18. Department of Industries and Commerce organized food processing summit in Ladakh.

- ✦ Department of Industries and Commerce, functioning under Ministry of Food Processing Industries organized food processing summit in Ladakh. The other stakeholders of the summit include Invest India and National Investment Promotion and Facilitation agency.
- ✦ The Summit was attended by food producers of Ladakh. It included producers of milk, barley, meat, organic vegetables, apples and apricots. The Ladakh Action Plan for Food Processing to promote food processing was presented at the summit.
- ✦ The summit focused on chain mapping of food processing and recommended strategies to integrate local population towards agriculture and food processing. It also focused primarily on Leh and Kargil regions.

Foot Notes:

Governors: R. K. Mathur

19. Reliance Jio emerges as largest telecom with 36.9 cr users; Vodafone loses 36 mn customers.

- ✦ Reliance Jio has become the largest telecom player with 36.9 crore mobile subscribers 2019, according to the data published by telecom regulator Trai. Vodafone Idea reported a total mobile subscriber base of 33.62 crore and Bharti Airtel at 32.73 crore customers for November 2019.
- ✦ Mobile subscriber base, which dominates overall telecom connections, declined by 2.43 per cent to 115.43 crore in November from 118.34 crore in October with Vodafone Idea losing the highest number of subscribers.

Foot Notes:

About Reliance Jio

Chairman and Managing director: Mukesh Ambani

20. 7th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, India Region starts.

- ✦ The 7th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region started at the legislative assembly building in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✦ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated the Conference in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

- ✦ Around 100 Delegates of 15 state assemblies and representatives of some foreign countries have reached Lucknow to take part in the 7th Conference of CPA India Region. The main theme of the conference is 'ROLE OF LEGISLATORS'.

21. Historic Bru-Reang Refugee agreement signed; 34,000 displaced to settle in Tripura.

- ✦ Government of India, Bru-Reang representatives, Government of Tripura and Mizoram signed an agreement in New Delhi to end the refugee crisis of Bru-Reang community. Home Minister Amit Shah presided over the event.
- ✦ Under the agreement, around 34,000 Bru Refugees are to settle in Tripura. The Centre will offer their rehabilitation helps with an allocated budget of Rs 600 crores. With this, the refugees are now eligible to enjoy social welfare schemes of state and central governments.
- ✦ According to the agreement, the displaced families are to be provided with land of 40 by 30 square feet. The land is to be provided by the Tripura Government. The Centre will provide aid of Rs 1.5 lakhs to build their houses. The Centre will also provide fixed deposit of Rs 4 lakhs and Rs 5,000 cash aid per month and free ration for 2 years.

Foot Notes:

About Tripura

Capital: Agartala

Governor: Ramesh Bais

Chief Minister: Biplab Kumar Deb

22. State of Art Tejas express train between Mumbai-Ahmedabad flagged off.

- ✦ The state of art- new Tejas Express train between Ahmedabad and Mumbai Central has been flagged off by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani at Ahmedabad Railway Station. The train will have stoppages at Nadiad, Vadodara, Bharuch, Surat, Vapi and Borivali en-route to Mumbai Central.
- ✦ The first train under the private sector has world-class comfort and facilities for passengers. The train operated by IRCTC will run between Ahmedabad and Mumbai on a six days a week- basis except.
- ✦ The second Tejas Express by IRCTC is being called a 'private' train since its operational control is entirely under IRCTC, instead of Indian Railways.

23. First edition of Krishi Manthan begins in Ahmedabad.

- ✦ In Gujarat, the first edition of Krishi Manthan- the largest Food, Agri-business and Rural Development Summit of Asia organized by Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad began.
- ✦ More than 1,500 delegates including students and academicians are participating in the two-day event organized by the Food and Agribusiness Committee of IIMA.
- ✦ The students along with working professionals from Food, Agriculture and allied sectors are getting benefited from the workshops during this summit.

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. World Future Energy Summit began on 13 January in Abu Dhabi.

- ✦ The World Future Energy Summit begins in Abu Dhabi. 33,500 participants from 170 countries and 800 specialist exhibitors are expected to attend the four-day annual event.
- ✦ The theme for this year's summit is "Rethinking Global Consumption, Production, and Investment."
- ✦ The World Future Energy Summit is the Middle East's largest future energy and sustainability event.

Foot Notes:

About UAE

Capital: Abu Dhabi

Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham

President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

2. Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen secures second term in landslide victory.

- Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen secured a landslide victory in presidential elections with voters resoundingly handing its first female leader a second term.
- Her main rival, Han Kuo-yu of the China-friendly Kuomintang (KMT) party, has conceded defeat.
- As per official results, Tsai was ahead with 57 per cent. In her victory speech, President Tsai Ing-wen expressed hope that Beijing authorities understand that democratic Taiwan, and its democratically elected government, will not concede to threats and intimidation.

Foot Notes:

About Taiwan

President: Tsai Ing-wen

Capital: Taipei

Currency: New Taiwan dollar

3. Japan's Kento Momota wins Malaysia Masters.

- World number one Kento Momota won the Malaysia Masters after easily defeating Denmark's Viktor Axelsen 24-22, 21-11.
- The victory in Malaysia lends credence to Momota's drive to win the gold in July's Tokyo Olympics.
- The reigning world champion told reporters that he eyes more success in 2020.
- Momota, currently the best player on the planet, won a record 11 titles last year.

Foot Notes:

About Japan

Prime minister: Shinzō Abe

Capital: Tokyo

Currency: Japanese yen

4. Australian Koalas become endangered in bush fires.

- The Australian Koalas population suffered an extraordinary hit in the bush fires of Australia. It took 3 months for the firemen to control the fires.
- Australia recorded 2019 as its hottest year on record. Around 1.25 billion animals are believed to be dead in bush fires. It has also destroyed more than 10 million hectares of land.
- The Australian Koalas are to be put under "endangered" from "vulnerable" as 30% of their habitat were destroyed by the fires. The Australian Government has announced 50 million Australian Dollars emergency fund to save the wildlife affected due to the fires.

5. United States remove 'currency manipulator' label imposed on China in 2019.

- The United States removed the currency manipulator label it imposed on China, in a sign of easing tensions between the economic powers after nearly two years of conflict.
- Just two days before President Donald Trump is set to sign a "phase one" trade agreement with China, the US Treasury said in its semi-annual report to Congress that the Yuan has strengthened and Beijing is no longer considered a currency manipulator.

Foot Notes:

About United States

Capital: Washington, D.C.

President: Donald Trump

About China

Currency: Renminbi

Capital: Beijing
President: Xi Jinping

6. Raisina Dialogue: India-Finland sign MoU; Russia reiterates for India's UNSC membership.

- ✦ The Raisina Dialogue was held at New Delhi for four days recently. Leaders from several countries participated in the dialogue.
- ✦ It included foreign ministers from 13 countries including Iran, Australia and Russia. During the Raisina Dialogue, India and Finland signed a defence agreement.
- ✦ Also, Russia announced that it supports India for the latter's permanent membership at the UNSC (United Nations Security Council).

Foot Notes:

About Finland

Capital: Helsinki

Currency: Euro

Prime minister: Sanna Marin

7. Russia's government resigns as Putin moves to change the constitution.

- ✦ The principal ministers of the Russian government, from Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev on down, resigned in a move designed to ease a constitutional overhaul recently proposed by President Vladimir Putin.
- ✦ The president accepted Medvedev's resignation and said he would appoint his longtime loyalist to the Russian Security Council.
- ✦ Putin also nominated Mikhail Mishustin, head of the Federal Tax Service, to replace Medvedev as prime minister, according to Russia's state-run Tass news agency. The rest of the ministerial Cabinet is expected to remain until their replacements are determined.

Foot Notes:

About Russia

Capital: Moscow

Currency: Russian Ruble

President: Vladimir Putin

8. "Globalizing Indian Thought", an International Conclave held at Kozhikode.

- ✦ On January 17, 2020, the International Conclave on "Globalizing Indian Thought" was held in IIM, Kozhikode. PM Modi addressed the conclave. The conclave aimed at revealing India's thoughts in becoming one of top three economies of the world.
- ✦ India is stepping towards the goal of becoming a 5 trillion Dollar economy by 2025. This will make India one of the top three economies in the world after US and China. It is essential for India to reveal its path while it is achieving such goals. The Conclave is an initiative to achieve this.

The Conclave focuses on India's thought on development. The thoughts are as follows

1. Satyam-Truth
2. Nithyam-Sustainability
3. Purnam-Wholeness.

Foot Notes:

About Kozhikode

Kozhikode is a coastal city in the south Indian state of Kerala

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

9. First Session of India-Norway Dialogue held in New Delhi.

- ✦ First session of India-Norway trade and investment dialogue was held in New Delhi. It was the first meeting of the countries after they signed an agreement in 2019.
- ✦ India and Norway signed Dialogue of Trade and Investment when Norway Prime Minister visited India in 2018. Based on the agreement, the countries held their first meeting to discuss industrial trade.
- ✦ The discussions included on various areas such as renewable energy, ICT, fisheries, MSME, maritime, shipping. The countries exchanged their views on investment opportunities.

10. Henley Passport Index launched: Japan has the world's strongest passport.

- ✦ Recently, Henley Passport Index was launched. The index was launched based on the data collected from International Air Transport Association (IATA). Around 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations were considered to launch the index.
- ✦ The Index is based on the number of destinations their holders can access without visa. Japan was followed by Singapore, Germany, South Korea at second, third and fourth places respectively. US and UK have been falling places for two year are now in eighth position.
- ✦ India ranked closer to the bottom at rank 84.

Foot Notes:**Capital:** Tokyo**Currency:** Japanese yen**Prime Minister:** Shinzō Abe**11. Brazil's new US\$100 million Antarctic base, built by China.**

- ✦ Brazil has inaugurated a new US\$100 million Antarctic base, built by Chinese company CEIEC to replace a research station destroyed by fire almost seven years ago.
- ✦ The new 48,375 sq ft facility was bigger and safer, with 17 laboratories, a heliport, and other advances.
- ✦ Scientists will use the base to study microbiology, glaciers, and climate, among other areas.

Foot Notes:**About Brazil****President:** Jair Bolsonaro**Capital:** Brasilia**Currency:** Brazilian real

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Lt Col Yuvraj Malik appointed as director of National Book Trust.

- ✦ Lt Col Yuvraj Malik was appointed as the director of National Book Trust (NBT) on deputation. Malik succeeds Sahitya Akademi-awardee writer Rita Chowdhury.
- ✦ Previously Malik has served with the Ministry of Defence (MoD), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Raj Bhawan in Jammu & Kashmir(J&K), United Nations Missions in Africa and also in several operational assignments.

Foot Notes:**About National Book Trust(NBT)****Founded:** 1 August 1957.**Headquarters:** New Delhi.**Parent Organisation:** Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).**Chairman:** Govind Prasad Sharma.

2. Michael Patra appointed as RBI Deputy Governor.

- ✚ The government has appointed Michael Patra as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). He will hold the office for a period of three years.
- ✚ Patra is a member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). He will replace Viral Acharya, who left the post in July 2019. He will be the fourth Deputy Governor of the central bank. He will be in charge of monetary policy and will remain on the MPC. Patra is currently the executive director (ED) of the Monetary Policy Department.

Foot Notes:**About RBI**

The Reserve Bank currently has three deputy governors—

NS Vishwanathan, BP Kanungo and MK Jain.

Patra will be the fourth among the deputy governors.

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

3. Lt General Girish Kumar reappointed as the Surveyor General of India for one year.

- ✚ Lt General Girish Kumar was reappointed as the Surveyor General of India for one year. He has been appointed on contract basis for one year.
- ✚ Kumar was in September 2017 appointed as the Surveyor General of India under the Survey of India, the national survey and mapping organisation of the country.



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4. Former Flipkart CEO Sachin Bansal acquires DHFL General Insurance.

- ✚ Former co-founder and CEO of e-commerce giant Flipkart recently acquired DHFL General Insurance from the Kapil Wadhawan-led Wadhawan Group of companies for 100 crore. The deal is seen as a distress sale for Kapil Wadhawan-led financial services group, which used to run the debt-laden DHFL.
- ✚ With this acquisition, Bansal has entered into the insurance business. The investment is also seen as part of his strategy to enter into the financial services industry.

5. Janak Raj to be the third internal member of the Monetary Policy Committee.

- ✚ Janak Raj is expected to be appointed as the third internal member of the central bank in the monetary policy committee (MPC). He is currently serving as Reserve Bank of India's principal adviser in the monetary policy department.
- ✚ He will replace Michael Patra, the executive director of the monetary policy department, who was elevated as Deputy Governor. The MPC consists of 6 members, out of which three are RBI's internal members and three are external experts
- ✚ As per the law, by default, the Governor and the Deputy Governor of RBI who are in-charge of monetary policy are the two RBI internal members of MPC. The third member could be any RBI officer. Therefore, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and Deputy Governor Michael Patra are the two RBI internal members of MPC.

Foot Notes:**About monetary policy committee****Founded:** October 2016**6. Bipul Behari Saha has been elected by IUPAC as its bureau member.**

- ✦ Bipul Behari Saha has been elected as the bureau member of International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) for the tenure of 2020-23.
- ✦ He has become the 2nd Indian after CNR Rao to hold the position.

Foot Notes:**About IUPAC****Headquarters:** Research Triangle Park Headquarters, North Carolina, United States**Founded:** 1919**President:** Zhou Qifeng**Motto:** Advancing Chemistry Worldwide**7. Harish Salve appointed Queen's Counsel for courts of England & Wales.**

- ✦ Senior Advocate Harish Salve has been appointed the Queen's Counsel for the courts of England and Wales. This was announced by the United Kingdom's Ministry of Justice Department.
- ✦ The title of Queen's Counsel is usually awarded to lawyers possessing demonstrated skill and expertise in the conduct of advocacy.
- ✦ Advocate Salve served as a Solicitor General for India until 2002. He is known for representing India before the International Court of Justice in the Kulbhushan Jadhav extradition case.

Foot Notes:**About England****Capital:** London**Currency:** Pound sterling

Banking

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

- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed banks and other card-issuing companies to provide a facility to customers to switch on and off their debit or credit cards.
- ✦ The move by RBI aims to enhance the security of digital transactions. It assumes significance amid rising instances of cyber fraud. RBI observed the volume and value of transactions made through cards have increased manifold.
- ✦ It stated that all cards at the time of issue or re-issue, physical and virtual, should be enabled for use only at contact-based points of usage, ATMs, and Point-of-Sale (PoS) devices, within India.

Foot Notes:**About RBI****Governor:** Shaktikanta Das**Headquarters:** Mumbai**Founded:** 1 April 1935

There are four deputy governors

B. P. Kanungo, N. S. Vishwanathan, Mahesh Kumar Jain, and Michael Patra.

2. BoB and Kotak Mahindra Bank exit Equifax Credit Information Services.

- ✦ State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Kotak Mahindra Bank has exited from credit information bureau Equifax Credit Information Services for a consideration of Rs 91.03 crore.
- ✦ In a regulatory filing, BoB sold 1,35,00,000 shares of a face value of Rs 10 for Rs 67.43 per unit.
- ✦ Kotak Mahindra Bank also existed from Equifax Credit Information Services.
- ✦ This is part of capital-raising exercise by exiting non-core business.

Foot Notes:**About Kotak Mahindra Bank****Headquarters:** Mumbai**CEO:** Uday Kotak**About BoB****Headquarters:** Alkapuri, Vadodara**Founder:** Sayajirao Gaekwad III**3. Exim Bank to raise up to \$3 billion from overseas borrowings in FY21.**

- ✦ The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) is looking to raise up to \$3 billion (about Rs 21,000 crore) from overseas borrowing in next financial year (2020-21).
- ✦ The bank has raised \$1.7 billion (about Rs 11,900 crore) of overseas borrowing through bond issues and foreign loans in the current financial year.
- ✦ It has also raised \$350 million in foreign loans so far in FY20. In terms of geographic distribution, 44 per cent bonds were distributed in Asia, 36 per cent in the US and 20 per cent from EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) region.

Foot Notes:**About Exim Bank****CEO:** David Rasquinha**Headquarters:** Mumbai**4. World Bank & GoI signs MoU for loan of Assam Inland Water Transport Project.**

- ✦ World Bank & GoI signs MoU for loan of \$88 million of Assam Inland Water Transport Project. The loan agreement seeks to modernize the Assam's passenger ferry sector by improving the infrastructure and its services.
- ✦ The government ferries are operated by the Assam Shipping Company (ASC) while the terminals and terminal services are provided by the Assam Ports Company (APC) in the state of Assam.
- ✦ The \$88 million agreement will provide technically better designed terminals and energy-efficient vessels to make the ferry services more efficient, modern and safe mode of river transport system.

Foot Notes:**About World Bank****Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., United States**World Bank President:** David Robert Malpass

Science Tech & Defence

1. DRDO's Naval variant of Light Combat Aircraft makes its first successful landing.

- ✦ The naval version of indigenous Light Combat Aircraft, LCA, made its first successful landing on the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

- ✦ This aircraft is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization, DRDO. Congratulating the DRDO and Navy for this achievement, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that he is extremely happy to learn about the maiden landing of naval variant of LCA on INS Vikramaditya.
- ✦ With the successful landing of Light Combat Aircraft, LCA on aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, India has entered into the club of selected nations having the capability to design a fighter jet which can land on an aircraft carrier. LCA is the smallest and lightest Multi-Role Supersonic Fighter Aircraft of its class.

Foot Notes:**About DRDO****Headquarters location:** New Delhi**Founded:** 1958**Motto:** बलस्य मूलं विज्ञानम्; "Strength's Origin is in Science" (Sanskrit)**Chairman:** Dr G. Satheesh Reddy**2. Indian Space Research Organization will launch GSAT-30 satellite on the launch vehicle Ariane-5.**

- ✦ On January 17, 2020, the Indian Space Research Organization will launch GSAT-30 satellite on the launch vehicle Ariane-5. It is to be launched in Ariane Launch Complex at Kourou. Kourou is a French territory that is located along the north eastern coast of South America.
- ✦ The GSAT-30 is a communication satellite. It is to replace INSAT-4A. The mission life of GSAT-30 is 15 years. ISRO has designed GSAT-30 in such a way to increase the number of transponders. A transponder is a device that transmits and responds to signals.
- ✦ The satellite will help in supporting VSAT network, teleport services, DTH television services, cellular backhaul connectivity and digital news gathering services.

Foot Notes:**About ISRO****Founder:** Vikram Sarabhai**Founded:** 15 August 1969**Headquarters:** Bengaluru**Director:** Kailasavadivoo Sivan**3. Indian Navy gets Fuel HFHSDIN 512, a special NATO class diesel.**

- ✦ M/s Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) launched the new fuel High Flash High-Speed Diesel (HFHSD) – IN 512, with revised technical specifications. India will be able to ensure interoperability amongst foreign navies during fleet exercises.
- ✦ It will provide fuel of quality better than that mandated to all foreign navies under bilateral/ multi-national logistics support pacts including Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA).
- ✦ This fuel will be the key enabler in the Indian Navy's 'Mission Based Deployment' on a global scale.

Foot Notes:**Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS):** Admiral Karambir Singh**4. CSIR partners with DRDO to develop the Saras engine.**

- ✦ The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has partnered with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to develop the Saras engine.
- ✦ CSIR will take up the project jointly designing and developing an aero-engine which is a highly complex task.
- ✦ All major systems of the Saras engine, except the power plants, are indigenous. The prototype version of the Saras is being developed by the CSIR's National Aeronautical Laboratory (NAL).

Foot Notes:**About CSIR****Director-General:** Ashutosh Sharma

Founder: Arcot Ramaswamy Mudaliar
Headquarters: New Delhi

5. Winged Raider: Indian Army's largest airborne exercise, 500 troops participate.

- ✦ The Indian Army recently conducted the largest air borne exercise called the Winged Raider. Around 500 troops participated in the exercise. The exercise was conducted in the north-eastern theatre.
- ✦ The exercise was conducted to demonstrate the operational readiness of the paratroopers and air warriors. The C-130 Hercules, Dhruv Helicopters and C-17 globe master transport aircraft participated in the exercise.
- ✦ The exercise was telecasted live. It focused on encountering China in the border region. The exercise also included capacity building programmes and habitats. It also focused on moving certain advanced weapon system to the eastern side.

6. Delhi Police gets power to detain for 3 months under National Security Act.

- ✦ Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal granted Delhi Police Commissioner the power to detain under the National Security Act, 1980 for next three months. The Delhi Police will get emergency detention power with effect from January 19, 2020 till April 18, 2020.
- ✦ The National Security Act, NSA allows for the preventive detention of an individual or individuals who are seen as threat to the national security or harm law and order. The person detained under the act is not charged by the Police.
- ✦ Delhi Police detention authority comes amid rising protests in Delhi against the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) as well as the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Important Days

1. Armed Forces Veterans Day celebrated on January 14.

- ✦ Every year, Armed Forces Veterans Day is celebrated on January 14. The day is being celebrated since 2017. The day was initially called Armistice Day.
- ✦ The Day began its journey as Armistice Day in order to reflect upon heroism of those who died in country's service. Armistice Day is celebrated on November 11 all over the world.
- ✦ The first Armistice Day was celebrated on November 11, 1919 marking the anniversary of the end of World War I and celebrating the brave soldiers who were part of World War I. However, in India the day was first marked through a resolution passed by the Congress in 1926.

2. Army Day is observed on 15 January.

- ✦ Army Day is observed on 15 January every year. India celebrated 72nd Army Day on 15 January 2020. The special event was organized on this day in the national capital, Delhi. Army Command headquarters in the national capital, as well as in other parts of the country, celebrated the occasion by organizing military parades and other shows of strength.
- ✦ The Indian army was officially established on 1 April 1895. But, only in 1949, after independence, the Army got its first chief. On 15 January, command of the Indian Army was handed over from General Sir Francis Butcher to Lieutenant General KM Cariappa. The transfer of power from the British to India signifies an important moment in Indian history.

Foot Notes:

The Indian army has 1.4 million active military personnel. China has the largest army in the world. When it comes to being powerful, India stands fourth behind the US, China, and Russia
Chief of the Army Staff: General Manoj Mukund

3. Mizoram to celebrate Chapchar kut on March 6.

- Mizoram will celebrate Chapchar Kut, the biggest and most important festival of the Mizos, on March 6. The meeting of Chapchar Kut organizing committee held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Zoramthanga decided that the festival will be a two-day event.
- While March 5 will be celebrated as pre-festival, which would be graced by Art and Culture Minister R Lalzirliana as "Kut Pa" or the "father of the festival", the grand celebration will take place on March 6, where that place would be taken by Zoramthanga.
- "Promotion of Mizos' culture and moral code" has been chosen as the theme for this year Chapchar Kut.

Foot Notes:**About Mizoram****Capital:** Aizawl**Governor:** P. S. Sreedharan Pillai**Chief Minister:** Zoramthangamake  exam
Sports**1. Rani Rampal to lead Indian Women's Hockey squad for New Zealand tour.**

- Striker Rani Rampal will lead the 20-member Indian Women's Hockey team for the upcoming New Zealand tour.
- Hockey India also said that Savita will be the vice-captain of the team for the forthcoming tournament, which will begin from 25 January 2020 in Auckland, New Zealand.
- India will take on New Zealand on January 27 and 29 followed by a match against Great Britain on February 4.

2. ICC U-19 World Cup Cricket begins in South Africa.

- Indian team, under the captaincy of Priyam Garg, will look to defend the title when it begins its campaign against Sri Lanka at the Oval, Bloemfontein.
- India are placed in Group 'A' and will face New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Japan, who will be making their first-ever appearance in any World Cup.
- India is the most successful team in the tournament, having won four titles till date, including the last edition in 2018.

Awards

1. Nitin Gadkari confer National Highways Excellence Awards.

- ✚ The National Highways Excellence Awards will be conferred by the Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Shri Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi on 14 January 2020.
- ✚ The award by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways acknowledges the exceptional work that is done in various aspects of highway management.
- ✚ The award instituted in 2018. The award aims to create a spirit of healthy competitiveness amongst all stakeholders involved in the development of highway infrastructure in the country. It encourages to contribute to the larger goal of expanding the road network in the country.

2. Jasprit Bumrah wins Polly Umrigar Award.

- ✚ Jasprit Bumrah bagged the Polly Umrigar Award, the highest award of Indian Cricket. He received this award for the best international cricketer (2018-19) at the BCCI Annual Awards event. Bumrah made his Test debut against South Africa in 2019.
- ✚ Poonam Yadav was given the Best International Cricketer (Female) Award at the same function. It is the top award from the BCCI in the women's category.
- ✚ Jasprit Bumrah was also given the Dilip Sardesai Award. The Polly Umrigar Trophy is given to the best male international cricketer by BCCI.

Foot Notes:

1. **BCCI Awards:** Full List of Winners
2. **Kris Srikanth:** Col. CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award
3. **Jasprit Bumrah:** Polly Umrigar Award Best International Cricketer (Men)
4. **Anjum Chopra:** BCCI Life Time Achievement Award For Women
5. **Poonam Yadav:** Best International Cricketer (Women)
6. **Dilip Joshi:** BCCI Special Award
7. **Mayank Agarwal:** Best International Debut (Men)
8. **Jasprit Bumrah:** Dilip Sardesai Award for Highest Wickets in Test Cricket- 2018-19
9. **Cheteshwar Pujara:** Dilip Sardesai Award for Highest Run Getter in Test Cricket- 2018-19
10. **Shafali Verma:** BCCI Best International Debut (Women)
11. **Jhulan Goswami:** Highest Wickets in One Day Internationals (2018-19) Women
12. **Shivam Dube:** Lala Amarnath Award For the Best All-Rounder in the Ranji Trophy
13. **Smriti Mandhana:** Highest Run Getter in One Day Internationals -2018-19 (Women)
14. **Vidarbha Cricket Association:** Best Performance in BCCI Domestic Tournaments (2018-19)
15. **Virendra Sharma:** Best Umpire in Domestic Cricket (2018-19)
16. **Shafali Verma:** Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy for Best Woman Cricketer

Obituaries

1. Noted Kerala Cartoonist Thomas Antony passes away at 62.

- ✚ Kerala Cartoonist and Secretary of Kerala Cartoon Academy Thomas Antony passed away at Kottackal town in Malappuram district, Kerala after suffering from heart attack. He was 62. He was born in Kottayam District Kerala India.
- ✚ He worked as a cartoonist in Deepika daily and served as the executive artist with Malayalam daily 'Metro Vaartha'.

- ✚ In 2007 he won United Nations Political Cartoon Award and the World Press Cartoon Award, instituted by an organization based in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2018.

Foot Notes:**About Kerala****Governor:** Arif Mohammad Khan**Capital:** Thiruvananthapuram**Chief Minister:** Pinarayi Vijayan**2. China's first and oldest female tractor driver Liang Jun, whose image features on Renminbi currency notes, dies at 91.**

- ✚ China's first and oldest female tractor driver Liang Jun, whose image features on Renminbi currency notes, has died. Liang was 90.
- ✚ She died of illness in Harbin, the capital of northeastern province Heilongjiang. Liang was the first female tractor driver of New China. Her image was featured on the one-Yuan note of the third set of the Chinese currency Renminbi.

Foot Notes:**About China****President:** Xi Jinping**Capital:** Beijing**Currency:** Renminbi

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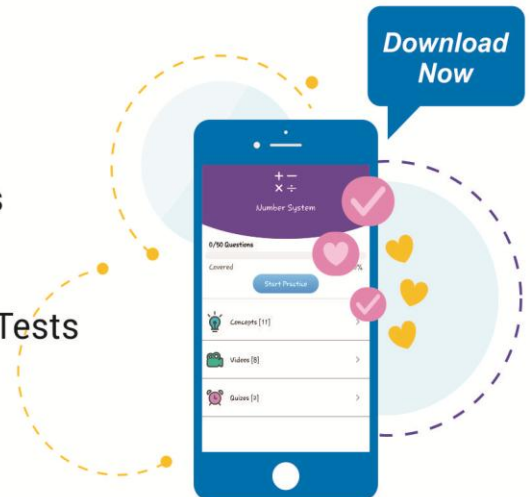
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