

Current Affairs



NATIONAL

Union Budget 2020-21

- Union Budget 2020-21 was presented in Parliament on February 1, 2020 by the Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman.
- This year's Union Budget centres around three ideas-**Aspirational India, Economic development, A Caring Society.**
- *The Finance Minister Said that the Union Budget 2020-21 aims*
 - To achieve seamless delivery of services through **Digital governance**
 - To improve physical quality of life through **National Infrastructure pipeline**
 - Risk mitigation through disaster resilience
 - Social security through **pension and insurance penetration**

Focused Points

- Fiscal deficit target pegged at 3.8% of GDP for FY20.
- Over **6 crore farmers** under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana have been insured.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha and Utthan Mahabhiyan** (PM KUSUM) to be expanded, providing 20 lakh farmers in setting up standalone solar pumps.
- **One-Product One-District** for better marketing and export in the Horticulture sector.
- Agri-credit target for the year 2020-21 has been set at ₹ 15 lakh crore.

- PM-KISAN beneficiaries to be covered under the KCC scheme.
- NABARD Re-finance Scheme to be further expanded.
- ₹ 69000 crore allocated for the healthcare sector. Out of the total amount, ₹ 6400 crore will be sanctioned for **Ayushman Bharat Yojana.**
- Government will start **Ind-Sat Exam** to promote study in India and a degree-level online education programme for the deprived.
- Government proposed ₹ 3000 crore for **Skill India** to provide relevant skill training to the youth
- ₹ 27300 crore allocated for 2020-21 for development and promotion of Industry and Commerce.
- **Investment Clearance Cell** proposed to be set up to provide 'end to end' facilitation and support.
- **National Technical Textiles Mission** to be set up with four-year implementation period from 2020-21 to 2023-24.
- New scheme **NIRVIK** to be launched to achieve higher export credit disbursement.
- 100 more airports to be developed under UDAAN by 2025.
- Railways will set up **Kisan Rail** through PPP model so that perishable goods can be transported quickly.
- Four station re-development projects and operation of 150 passenger trains through PPP.

- ₹ 22000 crore proposed for power and renewable energy sector in 2020-21
- Expansion of national gas grid from the present 16200 km to 27000 km proposed.
- An allocation of ₹ 6000 crore will be provided for BharatNet scheme.
- ₹ 28600 crore will be allocated in FY21 for women-linked programmes.
- Allocation for senior citizens and **Divyang** enhanced to ₹ **9500 crore**.
- Allocation of ₹ **2500 crore** for 2020-21 for **tourism** promotion.
- An **Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation** under Ministry of Culture proposed; with the status of a deemed University.
- Reforms accomplished in PSBs; 10 banks consolidated into 4 and ₹ 350000 crore capital infused.
- Government to amend the companies Act to decriminalise civil offences.
- Insurance cover for bank depositors raised from ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 5 lakh.
- Government to sell govt stake in IDBI Bank to private investors.
- The government has proposed to sell a part of its holding in the LIC, through an initial public offering (IPO).
- Jan Aushadhi Kendra Scheme to offer 2000 medicines and 300 surgicals in all districts by 2024
- **TB Harega Desh Jeetega** campaign launched-commitment to end Tuberculosis by **2025**.
- ₹ 3.60 lakh crore approved for Jal Jeevan Mission
- ₹ 12300 crore allocation for Swachh Bharat Mission in 2020-21

- The plan to provide piped water across Indian households by 2024 with ₹ 3.6 trillion of funding.

Economic Survey 2019-20

- India's Economic Survey 2019-20 was tabled in the Parliament by The Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) **Krishnamurthy V. Subramanian** followed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Jan., 31, 2020.
- The Economic Survey 2019-20 builds on India's aspiration of 5 trillion Economy by 2024-25 with a theme of **Wealth Creation**.

Highlights

- GDP growth pegged at 6-6.5% in FY 2020-21 as against 5.0% estimated for 2019-20.
- Survey suggests relaxing Fiscal Deficit target to revive growth in economy
- To achieve GDP of \$ 5 trillion by 2025, India needs to spend about \$ 1.4 trillion on infrastructure
- Uptick in GDP growth expected in second half of 2019-20
- Theme of Survey is to enable markets, promote pro-business policies and strengthening trust in the economy.
- Ethical wealth creation key to India becoming \$ 5 trillion economy by 2025
- Gross GST monthly collection crossed the ₹ 1 lakh crore mark five times till Dec., 2019
- India ranks third in number of new firms created; 1.24 lakh firms created in 2018 compared to 70000 in 2014
- India's large economy needs an efficient banking sector to support growth; State of the banking system needs urgent attention
- Survey suggests rationalisation of government intervention in boosting economic freedom and wealth creation
- Access to health services through Ayushman Bharat and Mission Indradhanush across the country has improved
- **'Thalinomics'** : Affordability of vegetarian Thali improved 29% and that of non-vegetarian Thali by 18% from 2006-07 to 2019-20

Cabinet Approved the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020

The Union Cabinet has approved the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on Jan. 29, 2020.

The bill will amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 and extends the upper limit for permitting abortions from the present 20 weeks to 24 weeks.

'Samvidhaan' Named as Oxford Hindi Word of 2019

Samvidhaan or **Constitution** has been named as the Hindi Word of the Year for 2019 by **Oxford University Press** on January 28, 2020.

The word was picked as 2019 saw the values of democracy, secularism, justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity being tested on the touchstone of the samvidhaan.

SC Allows Govt. to Bring African Cheetah to India

The Supreme Court has allowed the Centre to introduce the African cheetah to a suitable habitat in India (Palpur Kuno sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh) on an experimental basis on January 28, 2020.

The decision was taken after a petition was filed by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to introduce the African Cheetah from Namibia as the rare Indian Cheetah that has become almost extinct in India.

Indian Railways Commissioned First Waste to Energy Plant

Indian Railways has commissioned the country's first governmental waste to energy plant in Mancheswar Carriage Repair workshop at Bhubaneswar under the East Coast Railway zone.

It is the fourth waste to energy plant in the country and first plant commissioned by Government sector and Indian Railways (IR).

New Indian English Words Added to Oxford Dictionary

The tenth edition of the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, which was launched on January 24, 2020, has **384 Indian English words**.

In this latest edition, **26 new Indian languages words** namely Aadhaar, Chawl, dabba, hartal, shaadi and several incorporate words like chatbot, fake news, microplastic & over 1000 new words were included.

ISRO Unveiled 'Vyommitra' for Gaganyaan

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has unveiled a **half-humanoid or human-robot named 'Vyommitra'** which will be sent to space as part of the Gaganyaan mission on January 22, 2020.

'Vyom Mitra' or a **friend in the sky**; is capable of conversing with astronauts, recognising them, and responding to their queries.

It is called half-humanoid since it does not have legs, though it can bend forward and sideways.

POLNET 2.0 Facility Launched

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs (MHA) Nityanand Rai has inaugurated revamped police communication services POLNET 2.0 on January 20, 2020.

It is a captive satellite-based network that provides video, audio and data connectivity across the country, especially in times of disasters when regular communication either gets jammed or crashes.

Pariksha Pe Charcha 2020 Held

PM Narendra Modi has attended the **3rd edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2020'** held at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on January 20, 2020.

He advised students to study in their **comfortable time**, enter the exam hall with faith and **without any pressure** and start attempting the paper with easier question.

He guided students that they should **not fear failures** and learn from it as it would lead them towards their success.

SU-30MKI Aircraft Squadron Inducted

Indian Air Force has inducted the **first Sukhoi-30MKI fighter aircraft squadron at the Thanjavur air base**.

The SU-30MKI fighters are being equipped with the air-launched version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles which can hit targets at around 300 kilometres with precision.

This is the first SU-30MKI fighter aircraft squadron in South India which will look after maritime role as well.

'One Nation, One Ration Card' Scheme will be Implemented by June 2020

Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan has announced on January 20, 2020 that the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme will be implemented by June 1, 2020 across the country.

Under this scheme, a beneficiary will be able to avail benefits across the country using the same ration card. The beneficiaries will be identified and verified through Aadhaar authentication at the Fair Price Shops on the electronic point of sale (e-POS) devices.

India Successfully Test-fired K-4 Ballistic Missile

India successfully test-fired the 3,500 km strike range nuclear-capable **K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missile** off the coast of Andhra Pradesh on January 19, 2020.

The missile system is being developed by the DRDO and is to be fitted into the indigenously built INS Arihant-class nuclear-powered submarines of the Indian Navy.

Pulse Polio Programme 2020 Launched

President Ram Nath Kovind has launched the **Pulse Polio Programme 2020** by administering Polio drops to children below five years at Rashtrapati Bhavan on January 18, 2020.

The Pulse Polio Programme 2020 was conducted as a part of **National Immunisation Day** across the country.

APNA UREA-Sona Ugle Brand of HURL Launched

Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister DV Sadananda Gowda has launched the APNA UREA-Sona Ugle brand of Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited (HURL) in New Delhi on January 17, 2020.

HURL is a joint venture company promoted by the three Maha Ratna Companies - Coal India Limited, NTPC Limited and Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

ISRO's GSAT-30 Launched

India's 'high power' telecommunication satellite '**GSAT-30**' and **EUTELSAT KONNECT** was successfully launched from Kourou launch base, French Guiana by Ariane-5 VA-251 on January 17, 2020.

It will be **replacing the INSAT-4A satellite**, which launched in 2005, and it is designed to be operational for at least 15 years.

Second Premium Tejas Train Flagged-off

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has flagged-off **Mumbai-Ahmedabad Tejas Express** on January 17, 2020.

This is the IRCTC's second premium train after the semi-high speed and fully air-conditioned Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express.

The train is fully-air conditioned and comprises all the modern facilities with personalised reading lights, CCTV cameras, bio-toilets, LED TV, automatic doors and many more.

K9 Vajra-T Dedicated to the Nation

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has dedicated the **51st K9 Vajra-T self-propelled artillery gun at the Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** armoured system complex at Hazira in Gujarat on January 16, 2020.

K9 Vajra-T is a 155-mm, 52-calibre self-propelled artillery gun with a maximum range of 40 km, customised from the original K9 Thunder gun.

Raisina Dialogue 2020 Held

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) has jointly organised the 5th edition of the Raisina Dialogue 2020 in New Delhi from January 14-16, 2020.

The theme of the Raisina Dialogue this year (2020) is "Navigating the Alpha Century".

It brought together 700 international participants out of which 40% of the speakers were women, emphasising India's commitment to gender equality.

PM Modi's Visit to Kolkata

PM Narendra Modi paid a two-day official visit to Kolkata, West Bengal from January 11-12, 2020. During his visit, he renamed Kolkata Port as **Shyama Prasad**

Mukherjee Port on the occasion of 150th celebrations of the Kolkata Port Trust (KoPT).

Two oldest pensioner of the port Smt. Nagina Bhagat (105 years) and Mr. Naresh Chandra Chakra barty (100 years) were honoured at the event.

2nd Round of Intensified Mission Indradhanush- 2.0

The Union Government has launched the **second round of Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 at block level in 35 districts of Uttar Pradesh** on January 7, 2020.

The Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 aims to immunize children under 2 years of age and pregnant women against eight vaccine-preventable diseases.

10 More Indian Wetlands Got Ramsar Site Tag

Ten more wetlands in India have been recognized as Ramsar wetland sites, taking the total number in the country to 37.

Uttar Pradesh with one Ramsar site has added **six** more namely Nawabganj, Parvati Agra, Saman, Samaspur, Sandi and Sarsai Nawar.

Maharashtra got its **first** Ramsar site **Nandur Madhameshwar** while **Punjab** which already had three, added **three** more sites namely Keshopur-Miani, Beas Conservation Reserve and Nangal.

107th Indian Science Congress Held

The 107th Indian Science Congress (ISC) was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi on January 3, 2020 at the University of Agricultural Sciences in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The focal theme of the congress 2020 is **Science and Technology : Rural Development**.

It aims to bridge the gap between urban and rural India and improving the

quality of farmers life through science and technology.

PM Modi has launched the Indian Science, Technology and Engineering Facilities Map (I-STEM) portal, which will hold the database of all R&D facilities, established in institution across the country and will enable their sharing among the researchers.

Swachh Survekshan League 2020 Result Announced

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has announced the results of the first and second quarter of Swachh Survekshan League 2020 on December 31, 2019.

In the first quarter (April – June 2019), under the category of population between 1 lakh and 10 lakhs, **Jamshedpur** was on 1st spot followed by **New Delhi** and **Bilaspur** whereas, in the second quarter (July to September 2019), **Jamshedpur**, **Chandrapur** and **Khargone** topped the charts.

RPF Renamed as Indian Railway Protection Force Service

The Ministry of Railway has accorded, **Organised Group 'A' Status (OGAS)** to its security force **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** and renamed it as **Indian Railway Protection Force Service** on December 31, 2019.

RPF is a security force, established by the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957; enacted by the Indian Parliament for 'the better protection and security of railway property'.

India State of Forest Report 2019 Released

Environment Minister Prakash Javedkar has released the India State of Forest Report on December 30, 2019 which provides comprehensive information

about the forest cover, forest vegetation density, tree cover, progress of plantation outside the designated forests etc. for India as well as States.

Karnataka (1025 sq km) tops the country in growing the maximum amount of forest in the last two years followed by **Andhra Pradesh** (990 sq km) and **Kerala** (823 sq km).

Mangrove cover in the country has increased by **54 sq km** (1.10%) as compared to the previous assessment of 2017.

There is an increase of 42.6 million tonnes in the carbon stock of the country as compared to the last assessment of 2017.

Atal Bhujal Yojana Launched

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched **Atal Bhujal Yojana (or Atal Jal)**, a scheme for sustainable management of ground water resources, in New Delhi on December 25, 2019. The scheme was launched on the occasion of **95th birth anniversary former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee** and it is also named after him.

Cabinet Approved Updation of National Population Register

The Union Cabinet has approved an expenditure of ₹ 8754.23 crore for the exercise of Census of India 2021 and ₹ 3941.35 crore for updation of the National Population Register (NPR) on December 24, 2019. Census of India will cover the entire population in the country while NPR will also cover all the population except in the state of Assam.

DRDO Tested QRSAM Successfully

DRDO successfully flight-tested indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) system from Chandipur off the Odisha coast on

December 23, 2019. The missile was flight-tested with full configuration in deployment mode intercepting the target mid-air, meeting the mission objectives.

Pinaka Missile Successfully Test-fired

DRDO has successfully tested the upgraded version of the Pinaka rocket Mark-II from firing test range at Chandipur testing center in Odisha on December 20, 2019. The Pinaka Mk-II rocket is modified as a missile by integrating with the navigation, control and guidance system to improve the end accuracy and enhance the range.

President Approved Arms (Amendment) Bill 2019

President Ram Nath Kovind has approved the Arms (Amendment) Bill, 2019 for a maximum punishment of life imprisonment for manufacturing and carrying illegal arms on December 16, 2019. The act will enhance the period of arms license from 3 years to 5 years and also to issue arms license in its electronic form to prevent forgery.

National Broadband Mission Launched

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched National Broadband Mission (NBM) on December 17, 2019.

The mission will facilitate universal and equitable access to broadband services across the country, especially in rural and remote areas.

2 Versions of BrahMos Missile Test-fired

India successfully conducted two separate trials of supersonic cruise missile BrahMos, one each from land and air platforms on December 17, 2019.

The land attack version was test fired from a mobile autonomous launcher at Launch Complex-3 of the ITR at Chandipur while the air attack version was test fired from Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.

NEFT Facility to be Available 24x7 for Customers

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced on December 6, 2019 that the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) system will be made available 24x7 on all days from December 16, 2019.

Under the current system, funds can be transferred through NEFT from 8 am to 7 pm from Monday to Friday (except on Holidays).

President Approved the Recycling of Ships Bill 2019

President Ram Nath Kovind has approved 'The Recycling of Ships Bill 2019' for Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships in India on December 13, 2019. The already existing Shipbreaking Code (revised), 2013 and the provisions of the Hong Kong Convention, 2009 will be joined together in this bill.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019

President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the **Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019**, turning it into an **Act** on December 12, 2019.

The Act amended the Citizenship Act, 1955 and aims to provide **Indian citizenship** to the **Non-Muslim illegal migrants** belonging to the six minority communities namely Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, Christian and Sikhs from Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Pakistan who had arrived in India before December 31, 2014.

ISRO Launched RISAT-2BR1 and 9 Foreign Satellites

ISRO has launched India's latest spy satellite RISAT-2BR1 and nine foreign satellites (six from the US and one

each from Israel, Italy and Japan) through PSLV- C48 at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on December 11, 2019. RISAT-2BR1 is radar imaging earth observation satellite developed by ISRO and the second satellite in the RISAT-2B series. The satellite will be used in applications such as agriculture, forestry and disaster management support.

Fit India School Rating System Launched

Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal and Sports Minister Kiren Rijju have launched the Fit India School Rating System at Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1, Delhi Cantt on December 4, 2019. The Fit India School Rating System has been launched as part of the Fit India Campaign. Fit India school rating system as per certain parameters is expected to enhance the image of the schools.

India Conducted Night Trial of Prithvi-2 Missile

India has successfully conducted night trial of the indigenously developed nuclear-capable Prithvi-2 surface-to-surface missile as part of a user trial for the armed forces from ITR at Chandipur in the coast of Odisha. The missile has a strike range of 350 kilometres with warheads carrying capacity of 500-1000 kg.

First Night Trial of Agni-III Missile Conducted

India has conducted the first night trial of nuclear capable long-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile Agni-III from the Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast on November 30, 2019. The Agni-III has a strike range of 3000 km to 5000 km and is capable of carrying both conventional, nuclear warheads weighing up to 1.5 tonnes.

BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile Test-Fired

Indian Navy has successfully test-fired the 290-km strike range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the Navy's stealth destroyer INS Kochi in the Arabian Sea on November 28, 2019.

The supersonic missile successfully hit a decommissioned target ship in Arabian Sea. The air-launched BrahMos missile is a 2.5-tonne supersonic air-to-surface cruise missile, designed and developed by BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited.

ISRO Launched CARTOSAT-3

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has launched advanced earth imaging and mapping satellite **Cartosat-3** along with **13 commercial nanosatellites** into Sun Synchronous Orbit from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on November 27, 2019. **Cartosat-3** was launched by **PSLV-C47 rocket** along with 13 other cubesats from the USA.

Lokpal Logo & Motto Released

The logo is based upon the literal meaning of Lokpal-Lok means people and pal means caretaker, i.e. caretaker of people. It is designed by Prashant Mishra, from Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh (UP). Motto of the Lokpal : **Ma Gridhah Kasyasvidhanam** (Do not be greedy for anyone's wealth).

Parliament Passed Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill 2019

Parliament has passed the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on November 19, 2019. The new Bill contains an amendment to the **Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act, 1951**, and changes the provisions for trustees of the memorial.

Defence Exercise Test

Missile	Description
Sindhu Sudarshan Exercise	The Indian Army conducted exercise Sindhu Sudarshan for the year 2019 in the deserts of Rajasthan from November 29 to December 4, 2019. The aim of this exercise is to evaluate the capability of the defence services in an integrated air-land battle.
Shakti-2019	Indian and French armies conducted joint counter-terrorism drills under 'Exercise Shakti-2019' in the Mahajan field firing range in Rajasthan from October 31 to November 13, 2019.
Sindhu Sudarshan-VII Exercise	The Strike Corps of the Indian Army has conducted its second phase of the exercise named Sindhu Sudarshan-VII in Rajasthan from November 12-18, 2019.
Samudra Shakti	The second divisional naval exercise 'Samudra Shakti 2019' between Indian Navy and Indonesia Navy was held in the Bay of Bengal from Nov. 6-7, 2019.
SCOJtEx-2019	Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Joint Exercise on Urban Earthquake Search & Rescue (SCOJtEx)-2019 in New Delhi on November 4, 2019.
Dustlik-2019	The first-ever India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise Dustlik-2019 was held at Chirchik Training Area near Tashkent from November 4-13, 2019. The exercise enabled sharing of best practices and experiences between the Armed Forces of the two countries.
Sudarshan Chakra Vahini War Exercise	A two-day long Sudarshan Chakra Vahini War Exercise 2019 of the Indian Army was held at Jaisalmer field firing range, Rajasthan from October 20-21, 2019.
IMNEX-2019	The 2nd edition of India-Myanmar Naval Exercise called 'IMNEX-2019' was held in Visakhapatnam from October 19-22, 2019. The exercise was consisted in two phases : the harbour phase includes visits to Indian Naval units, training and maintenance facility at Visakhapatnam.

India Test-Fired Prithvi-II Missile

India has successfully test-fired indigenously developed nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile from a mobile launcher from Launch Complex-3 of Chandipur Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Balasore district of Odisha on November 20, 2019. It is the surface-to-surface missile, which has a strike range of 350 km. It is capable of carrying 500 to 1,000 kg of warheads and is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines.

Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh Launched

The Ministry of Women and Child Development along with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has launched the Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh (BPKK) in New Delhi on November 18, 2019.

The Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh is a **repository of diverse crops across 128 agro-climatic zones** to help enable better nutritional outcomes.

Special Winter Grade Diesel Launched

Home minister Amit Shah has launched a special winter grade diesel for the citizen of **Ladakh** through video conferencing in New Delhi on November 17, 2019.

The winter-grade diesel has been developed by **Indian Oil Corporation**, and stays unfrozen up to minus 33 degrees Celsius. It will help to reduce hardships faced by the local people for transportation and mobility during the harsh winter months.

Darjeeling Green & White Tea Received GI Tag

Two tea varieties of Darjeeling tea namely **Green Tea** and **White Tea** were registered under 'Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999' on November 16, 2019. Darjeeling produces 85 lakh kilograms of tea; of this Green Tea constitutes 10 lakh kilograms and White Tea constitutes 1 lakh kilograms.

India Conducts First Night Trial of Agni-II Missile

DRDO has successfully conducted the first night trial of nuclear-capable intermediate range ballistic missile Agni-II from the Dr. Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast on November 16, 2019. The 20-metre long two-stage ballistic missile has a launch weight of 17 tonnes and can carry a payload of 1000 kg over a distance of 2000 km.

Sisseri River Bridge Inaugurated

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the Sisseri River Bridge at Lower Dibang Valley in East Siang District of **Arunachal Pradesh** on November 15, 2019.

It is the 200-metre long bridge between **Jonai-Pasighat-Ranaghat-Roing road**; will provide connectivity between **Dibang Valley and Siang**. It was constructed by Project Brahmaputra of Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

CJI's Office to Come Under RTI

Supreme Court ruled that the office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) is a public authority under the Right to Information Act on November 13, 2019.

The order was passed by a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice **Ranjan Gogoi**, with other members including Justices **NV Ramana**, **DY Chandrachud**, **Deepak Gupta** and **Sanjiv Khanna**.

Ayodhya Case Verdict

After about 70 years of legal battle in independent India, the **Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi land dispute** of Ayodhya resolved.

The Supreme Court has finally delivered its much-awaited verdict on November 9, 2019 in the landmark Ayodhya Ram Mandir-Babri Masjid land title dispute and ruled **in favour of the Hindu side** with regards to the ownership of the disputed piece of land.

The Apex Court has also ordered the government to allot a **five-acre plot** at a prominent place in Ayodhya to the **Muslims to construct a new mosque**.

Kartarpur Corridor Inaugurated

PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated Integrated Check Post of Kartarpur Corridor at Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab on November 9, 2019.

He also flagged off the first batch of over 500 Indian pilgrims led by Akal Takhat Jathedar **Giani Harpreet Singh** to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib through the corridor.

FSSAI Released Food Safety Guidelines for Schools

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has released draft regulations titled 'Food Safety and Standards (Safe Food and Healthy Diets for School Children) Regulations, 2019', on November 7, 2019.

The draft is a 10 pointer chart that prohibits the sale and promotion of unhealthy food items in schools and nearby locations.

Shala Darpan Portal Launched

Union Minister of State for HRD Sanjay Dhotre has launched the Shala Darpan Portal for Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) in New Delhi on November 6, 2019. Shaala Darpan portal is an end-to-end E-Governance school automation and management system for Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS).

INTERNATIONAL

WHO Declared the Global Risk of Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

The World Health Organization has declared **the outbreak of a novel coronavirus** a global health emergency on January 30, 2020 because the outbreak continues to spread outside China.

Coronavirus is an umbrella term for viruses that cause illness ranging from common cold to diseases such as the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). By January 31, 2020, 213 deaths have been reported and 9776 confirmed cases.

Hawaiian Telescope Captured most Detailed Pictures of the Sun Yet

Hawaii's Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope has captured the highest-ever resolution images of the solar surface on January 29, 2020. The images show the sun's surface to be made up of **granular structures**, like nuggets of gold, each about the size of France.

Sheikh Khalid Bin Khalifa Bin Abdulaziz Al Thani Appointed as New PM of Qatar

Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani has been appointed as new Prime Minister of Qatar on January 28, 2020.

Along with the position of Prime Minister, he has also taken over as the Minister of Interior .

He succeeded Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, who submitted his resignation to the emir.

Switzerland Minted World's Smallest Gold Coin

Switzerland state-owned Swissmint has minted **world's smallest gold coin of 2.96 mm** (0.12 inches) on January 23, 2020.

The coin features a face of **scientist Albert Einstein** sticking out his tongue.

It weighs 0.063 grams and has a nominal value of 1/4 Swiss francs (\$ 0.26).

Corruption Perceptions Index 2019

Transparency International has released the Corruption Perceptions Index 2019 during the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos on January 23, 2020.

Denmark and **New Zealand** have cornered the top spot, followed by **Finland, Singapore, Sweden** and **Switzerland** in the top ten, among 180 countries.

India slipped two positions to **80th** in the index with a score of **41** while it was at 78th in the previous year's ranking.

Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2020

Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) 2020 has been released at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) on January 22, 2020.

Switzerland emerged as the most talent-competitive nation of the world' followed by **US** and **Singapore**.

India has moved up eight places to the **72nd position** out of 132 countries from 80th position in GTCI 2019.

e-Passport Launched in Dhaka

Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina has launched e-passport in Dhaka, Bangladesh on January 22, 2020.

With this, Bangladesh has become the **first country in South Asia and 119th country in the world** to have an e-passport facility. The e-passports will have an embedded chip in them which will contain the bio-metric data of the passport holder, photograph and other information contained in the passport.

Sakellaropoulou becomes Greece's First Woman President

Greece's parliament has elected Katerina Sakellaropoulou as the first woman president in the Country's history on January 22, 2020. She will succeed current conservative President Prokopis Pavlopoulos, whose five-year term expires in March. Prior to her election, she served as President of the Council of State, the highest administrative court of Greece.

Guyana Takes Over the Chairmanship of G77

The South American country **Guyana** has taken over the chairmanship of the Group of 77 (G77) for the year 2020 from **Palestine**.

The Group of 77 (G77) is the largest intergovernmental organisation of developing countries in the United Nations.

Robert Abela Elected New PM of Malta

Malta's governing party has elected a new leader Robert Abela as **14th prime minister of Malta** on January 12, 2020.

At the internal party elections, he obtained 9,342 votes against 6,798 for his rival Chris Fearnle.

He replaced Joseph Muscat, who resigned in December 2019.

Henley Passport Index 2020

Henley & Partners has released the Henley passport Index 2020 on January 8, 2020.

Japan emerged as the world's most powerful passport, while **Singapore** took the second spot followed by **South Korea** and **Germany**.

India's rank has dropped from 82nd in 2019 to **84th in 2020** which means that Indian passport allows visa-free entry to 58 destinations worldwide.

Nigeria's passport ranked **199th** as the **weakest** passport in the world.

Pedro Sanchez Re-elected as the PM of Spain

Pedro Sanchez Perez-Castejon, a Spanish politician & Socialist leader has been re-elected as Spanish Prime Minister on January 7, 2020. He has also been Secretary-General of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) since June 2017.

Palau Becomes First Country to Ban 'Reef-Toxic' Sunscreen

Palau has become the first country in the world **to ban various types of sunscreen to protect coral reefs** on January 1, 2020. The sun cream consists of oxybenzone and octinoxate absorbs UV (Ultra Violet) rays which causes water more acidic, makes corals susceptible to bleaching and agitating fish stocks

WHO Designated 2020 as 'Year of Nurse and Midwife'

World Health Organisation (WHO) has designated the year 2020 as the **Year of the Nurse and the Midwife** in honour of the 200th birth anniversary of **Florence Nightingale**.

The year 2020 is significant for WHO in the context of nursing and midwifery

strengthening for Universal Health Coverage. The WHO will also launch first-ever State of the World's Nursing report in 2020 prior to the 73rd session of the World Health Assembly.

China Launched Shijian-20 Satellite

China has launched its heaviest and most advanced communications satellite, **Shijian-20** by its largest new carrier rocket Long March-5 from Wenchang Space Launch Center in south China's Hainan Province on December 27, 2019.

The Long March-5 rocket can carry a maximum payload of 25 tonnes into low Earth orbit and 14 tonnes into geosynchronous orbit.

Donald Trump Launched US Space Force

US President Trump officially has launched US Space Force, the 1st US military service in over 70 yrs focusing on warfare in space, on December 22, 2019. He has signed the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, authorising the establishment of Space Force.

Eight West African Countries Renamed Common Currency

Eight West African nations have agreed to change the name of their common currency from 'CFA franc' to 'Eco' on December 22, 2019. CFA Franc is the name of two currencies- 'the West African CFA franc', which is used in 8 West African countries and 'Central African CFA franc', which is used in 6 Central African countries.

Global Gender Gap Report 2020

World Economic Forum (WEF) has released the Global Gender Gap Index Report 2020 on December 17, 2019. Under the report Mind the 100 year

gap; India has been reached 112th among 153 countries.

The report analyzed 153 countries in their progress toward gender parity, focusing on four main dimensions: Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival and Political Empowerment.

UK General Elections 2019

Boris Johnson won the United Kingdom (UK) general election after his Conservative Party crossed the required majority of 326 votes of the 650 seats in the House of Commons on December 13, 2019.

The Labour party headed by Jeremy Bernard Corbyn and the Scottish National Party headed by Nicola Ferguson Sturgeon gained 203 and 43 votes, respectively.

US Shuts Down WTO Appeal Court

The Appeal Court of the World Trade Organization (WTO) that acts as trade dispute settlement body for the members was shut down by the United States on December 9, 2019.

Without WTO's appellate body, the dispute settlement will return to pre-1995 GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) status quo.

Human Development Index 2019

Norway topped the Human Development Index (HDI) 2019 according to the Human Development Report released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on December 8, 2019.

Switzerland and Ireland stood at the second and third place, respectively out of 189 countries. India has jumped one place from 2018 to 129 in 2019 in HDI.

COP25 Climate Summit

The 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP25 was held in Madrid, Spain, from December 2-13, 2019 under the presidency of the Chilean government. Originally, the Summit was supposed to take place in Chile, but was relocated to Spain after political unrest in Santiago.

The conference incorporates the 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the 15th meeting of the parties for the Kyoto Protocol (CMP15), and the second meeting of the parties for the Paris Agreement (CMA2).

NATO Summit 2019

The United Kingdom (UK) hosted two day organised 2019 NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Summit in London from December 3-4, 2019.

The purpose of the summit was to make the heads of state and heads of government of NATO member countries to evaluate and provide strategic direction for Alliance activities. The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the summit.

Afghanistan First Country to Recognize Indian Pharmacopoeia

Afghanistan has become the first country to recognise the Indian Pharmacopoeia standards for drugs & medicines. The Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) is an officially recognized book of standards as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules 1945 thereunder.

Swedish King and Queen Visited India

King Carl XVI Gustaf Folke Hubertus and Queen Silvia Renate Sommerlath of

Sweden paid a 5-day official visit to India from December 2-6, 2019.

The king and queen of Sweden inaugurated the 14 MLD (megalitres per day) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Sarai village in Haridwar (Uttarakhand).

Nuad Thai Massage included in UNESCO Heritage List

The famous 2000-year-old Nuad Thai massage that has been practised in Thailand has been officially added to the UNESCO's list of 'intangible cultural heritage' practices. The massage follows a traditional healing mechanism that folds the body and uses sharp elbow techniques, combining acupressure and Indian Ayurvedic principles.

Oxford Word of the Year 2019 Announced

Oxford Dictionaries has declared **climate emergency** as the word of the year for 2019 on November 21, 2019.

Climate emergency is defined as 'a situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it.'

Pakistan Launched Shaheen-1 Missile

Pakistan has conducted successful test launch of Shaheen-1 surface-to- surface ballistic missile on November 18, 2019.

The Shaheen-1 missile is capable of delivering all types of warheads up to range of 650 km.

Pakistan Becomes First Country to Launch New WHO approved Typhoid Vaccine

Pakistan has become the first country in the world to introduce a new typhoid vaccine on November 15, 2019. The vaccine was approved by the WHO in

2018, initially used during a two-week immunisation campaign from November 18 to 30 in the urban areas of Sindh. The new vaccines have been provided by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to the Pakistani government free of cost.

BRICS Summit 2019 Held

The 11th BRICS Summit convened in Brasília (Brazil) on November 13-14, 2019 with the theme **BRICS : Economic Growth for an Innovative Future.**

All BRICS leaders namely Brazilian President **Jair Bolsonaro**, Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, Chinese President **Xi Jinping**, Russian President **Vladimir Putin** and South African President **Cyril Ramaphosa** discussed a wide range of topics from intra-bloc cooperation to global governance.

Sri Lanka Call Match Fixing a Crime

Sri Lanka has become first South Asian nation to criminalise several offences related to match-fixing on November 12, 2019. The move comes after Sri Lankan parliament passed of a bill related to it labelled as **Prevention of Offences Related to Sports.** If a person is found guilty of committing an offence, then he may find himself jailed for a term up to 10 years and will also be required to pay other fines.

NASA Unveiled Its First Electric Plane

NASA has launched an early version of its first all-electric experimental aircraft, the **X-57 Maxwell** on November 9, 2019. Adapted from an Italian-made **Tecnam P2006T** twin-engine propeller plane, the X-57 has been under development since 2015. The Maxwell will be the agency's first crewed X-plane to be developed in two decades.

SPORTS AND GAMES

CRICKET

Diplomat Cup 2020

The team of the **Indian Consulate** has defeated the team of the Pakistan **Consulate** to lift the Diplomat Cup Cricket Championship of 2020 in Dubai on January 18, 2020.

This is the third successive year that India won the Diplomat Cup Championship. The first tournament was won by Bangladesh in January 2017.

India-West Indies ODI Series

India beat West Indies by 4 wickets to win the three-match ODI series by 2-1 at Barabati Stadium Cuttack, Odisha. Rohit Sharma was named Man of the Series.

India-West Indies Women's T20 Series

The India women's cricket team played with West Indies women's cricket team from November 1-20, 2019.

Indian women's cricket team defeated the West Indies in a five-match T20I series by winning the fifth and last T20I match by 61 runs at the Providence Stadium in Georgetown, Guyana.

India and Bangladesh T20 Series

India defeated Bangladesh by 30 runs in the third and final T20I to win 3-match series 2-1 in Nagpur on November 10, 2019. Deepak Chahar won the man of the Match and Man of the Series awards.

India-West Indies Women's ODI Series

Indian Women Cricket team won the three match series 2-1 against West Indies by 6 wickets in the 3rd and final ODI match in North Sound, Antigua.

Smriti Mandhana was named the Player of the Match, while Stafanie Taylor was named Player of the Series.

TENNIS

Hobart International 2020

27th edition Hobart International Tennis Tournament took place at the Hobart International Tennis Centre in Hobart, Australia from January 13-18, 2020.

Indian Tennis Player **Sania Mirza** and her Ukrainian partner **Nadiia Kichenok** have won the 2020 women's doubles title.

The 2020 Hobart International was a women's tennis tournament played on outdoor hard courts.

Qatar Open 2020

The 28th edition of the Qatar Open 2020 (men's tennis tournament) was took place at the **Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex in Doha, Qatar** from January 6-11, 2020.

Russia's **Andrey Rublev** won the singles title after defeating **Corentin Moutet** of France in the final.

Brisbane International 2020

The 12th edition Brisbane International tennis tournament 2020 was took place at the **Queensland Tennis Centre in Tennyson** from January 6-12, 2020.

Karolína Plíšková of Czech Republic won the singles title after defeating **Madison Keys** (USA) in the final.

ATP Cup 2020

Novak Djokovic (Serbia) has defeated **Rafael Nadal** (Spain) to make Serbia the champion of ATP Cup 2020 held at Ken Rosewall Arena in Sydney, Australia from January 3-12, 2020.

The 2020 ATP Cup was the first edition of the ATP Cup, an international outdoor hard court men's tennis tournament.

ITF World Champions 2019

International Tennis Federation (ITF) honoured eleven players by its annual awards named as ITF World Champions 2019 in Singles, Doubles, Wheelchair, and Juniors category on December 20, 2019.

Category	Winner
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain)
Women's Singles	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)
Women's Doubles	Timea Babos (Hungary) and Kristina Mladenovic (France)

Davis Cup Tie 2020

India defeated Pakistan in the tie match for the International Tennis Federation's (ITF's) Davis cup 2020 was held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan from November 29-30, 2019. **Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan** and **Leander Paes** won the match against **Huzaifa Abdul Rehman** and **Muhammad Shoaib** 6-1, 6-3 in the only doubles match of the tie between India and Pakistan.

Davis Cup 2019

The Davis cup final was conducted from November 18-24, 2019 at the Caja Mágica in Madrid, Spain. Spain's **Rafael Nadal** clinched 6th Davis Cup title in men's singles after beating **Denis Shapovalov** of Canada.

Fed Cup 2019

The final of 57th edition of Fed Cup 2019 was held in Australia on November 10, 2019. It is the most important tournament between national teams in women's tennis. France defeated Australia with 3-2 in the finals and won the Fed Cup 2019.

HOCKEY

National Ice Hockey Women's Championship

Ladakh lifted the 7th National Ice Hockey Championship Women trophy after defeating **Delhi**, at the Karzoo Ice Hockey Rink in Ladakh on January 7, 2020.

The tournament was organised by the Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) in association with the Ladakh winter sports club.

BADMINTON

Indonesia Masters 2020

The 2020 Indonesia Masters badminton tournament was took place at the Istora Gelora Bung Karno in Indonesia from January 14-19, 2020.

Category	Winner
Men's Singles	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia)
Women's Singles	Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand)

Malaysia Masters 2020

The 2020 Malaysia Masters badminton tournament was took place at the Axiata Arena in Malaysia from January 7-12, 2020.

Category	Winner
Men's Singles	Kento Momota (Japan)
Women's Singles	Chen Yufei (China)

BWF World Tour Finals 2019

The 2nd edition of Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour Finals 2019 (officially known as the HSBC– Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation BWF World Tour Finals 2019) took place at Tianhe Gymnasium in Guangzhou, China from December 11–15, 2019.

CHESS

Hastings International

India's P. Magesh Chandran won the title in the 95th edition of the prestigious **Hastings International Chess Congress at Hastings** in England on January 6, 2020.

He remained unbeaten and finished in clear first place with 7.5 points from nine games after securing a 33-move draw in the final round against compatriot G.A. Stany.

SHOOTING

63rd National Championship

National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) & MP State Shooting Academy has organized 63rd National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC) 2019 at Shooting Academy Shooting Ranges, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh from December 7, 2019 - January 4, 2020.

Manu Bhaker has bagged 4 gold medals (individual and team events in senior and junior) in the women's 10 meter air pistol event.

Shooter **Zeena Khitta** (Himachal Pradesh) has won the gold medal of the 10-meter air rifle event.

Saurabh Chaudhary (Uttar Pradesh) has won the gold medal in the men's 10 meter air pistol event.

YOUTH GAMES

Khelo India Youth Games 2020

The 3rd edition of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2020 was held at Karmabir Nabin Chandra Bordoloi Indoor Stadium in Guwahati, Assam from January 10-22, 2020.

Maharashtra topped the medal tally with total of 256 medals followed by **Haryana** and **Delhi**.

It was organised by Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports & conducted in partnership with the School Games Federation of India (SGFI), Indian Olympic Association (IOA), and Assam State government.

The second edition of Khelo India Youth Games was held in Pune, Maharashtra in 2019; topped by Maharashtra.

AWARDS & HONOURS

NATIONAL

Padma Awards 2020

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has announced the names of **141 Padma awardees for 2020** on January 25, 2020.

Out of 141 awardees, **7 personalities** have been chosen for **Padma Vibhushan**, **16 personalities** for Padma Bhushan and **118 personalities** for **Padma Shri**.

Award	Awardee
Padma Vibhushan	George Fernandes, Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj and Sri Vishveshateertha Swamiji Sri Pejavara Adhokhaja Matha Udupi (Posthumous), Sir Anerood Jugnauth, MC Mary Kom and Chhannulal Mishra
Padma Bhushan	Syed Muazzem Ali, Neelakanta Ramakrishna Madhava Menon and Manohar Parrikar (Posthumous), M. Mumtaz Ali, Muzaffar Hussain Baig, Ajoy Chakravorty, Manoj Das, Balkrishna Doshi, Krishnammal Jagannathan, SC Jamir, Anil Prakash Joshi, Dr. Tsering Landol, Anand Mahindra, Prof. Jagdish Sheth, PV Sindhu and Venu Srinivasan
Padma Shri	Harish Chandra Verma, Vashishtha Narayan Singh (Posthumous), Dr. Kushal Konwar Sarma, Kalyan Singh Rawat and 114 others

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2020

Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre (DMMC), Uttarakhand and **Kumar Munnan Singh** have been selected for the **2nd Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2020** on January 23, 2020. DMMC was selected under 'institution category' while Shri Kumar Munnan Singh was selected under 'individual category' for their contributions in disaster management.

Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2020

President Ram Nath Kovind has conferred the Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2020 to **49 children** in the age group of 5-18 years at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan on January 22, 2020.

29th Saraswati Samman

Prominent Sindhi writer **Vasdev Mohi** will be conferred with 29th Saraswati Samman for his short stories collection 'Cheque book' which talks about the miseries and sufferings of marginalized sections of the society.

BCCI Annual Awards 2018-19

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has presented its Annual Awards in 25 different categories for the 2018-19 seasons in Mumbai, Maharashtra to honor all the legendary cricketers on January 12, 2020.

Jaspri Bumrah received the prestigious **Polly Umrigar Award** for being the best international cricketer for 2018-19 season.

Poonam Yadav has been adjudged the **best international cricketer** among the women.

Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National Awards

Agricultural Scientist **MS Swaminathan** and social worker **Dr. Gutta Muniratnam** were respectively chosen as the first recipients of 'Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National Award for Excellence' and 'Muppavarapu National Award for Social Service' on January 9, 2020.

66th National Film Awards

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu has conferred the 66th National Film Awards for the year 2018 in 31 categories in New Delhi on December 23, 2019.

Category	Award
Best Actor	Vicky Kaushal ('Uri : The Surgical Strike') AyushmannKhurrana ('Andhadhun')
Best Actress	Keerthy Suresh ('Mahanati')
Best Director	Aditya Dhar ('Uri : The Surgical Strike')
Best Music	Sanjay LeelaBhansali ('Padmavat')
Best Hindi movie	'Andhadhun'

Dada Saheb Phalke Award

Amitabh Bachchan has received the 50th Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2019, India's highest film honour from President Ram Nath Kovind on December 29, 2019. He was honoured for his 'outstanding contribution for the growth and development of Indian cinema'.

Sahitya Akademi Award 2019

The Sahitya Akademi announced its annual literary awards for 2019 for works in 23 languages on December 18, 2019. Shashi Tharoor won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2019 for his book *An Era of Darkness: The British Empire in India*.

Gangadhar National Award

Hindi Poet Viswanath Tiwari from Uttar Pradesh to be honoured with Gangadhar National Award during the 53rd Foundation Day celebrations of the Sambalpur University. He was the former President of the Sahitya Akademi between 2013-2014 and has authored several anthologies.

55th Jnanpith Award

Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Nambodri has been chosen for the 55th Jnanpith award for his outstanding contribution to the Malayalam literature on November 29, 2019. Akkitham has authored 55 books

out of which 45 are collections of poems including "Khanda Kavyas", "Katha Kavyas", "Charitha Kavyas" and songs.

28th Bihari Puraskar

Rajasthan based noted writer **Manisha Kulshreshtha** has been awarded the 28th Bihari Puraskar for 2018 for her novel 'Swapnapash' on November 23, 2019. She is known for her works like 'Shigaf', 'Shalbhanjika' and 'Panchkanya'. The award is named after famous Hindi poet Bihari and is presented by the KK Birla Foundation to writers of Rajasthani origin.

Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration

Noted environmentalist and social activist Chandi Prasad Bhatt will be awarded the Indira Gandhi award for national integration for the years 2017 and 2018. He has earlier been awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1982 and Padma Bhushan in 2005.

JCB Prize for Literature 2019

US based-Indian author Madhuri Vijay's debut novel, *The Far Field* bagged 2019 JCB prize for Literature on November 2, 2019. *The Far Field* is an impressively ambitious novel of stunning emotional and psychological acuity.

INTERNATIONAL

Tyler Prize 2020

Esteemed environmental economist and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Goodwill Ambassador Pavan Sukhdev has won 2020 Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement on January 27, 2020.

62nd Grammy Awards

The **62nd Annual Grammy Awards ceremony** was held at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on January 26, 2020.

The event was hosted by American musician, singer and composer Alicia Keys and the awards were presented in 84 categories.

Lizzo received the most nominations of any artist with eight, followed by Billie Eilish and Lil Nas X with six each.

Billie Eilish, the 18-year-old singer won five awards, including song of the year, best pop vocal album, album of the year, record of the year and best new artist.

Former United States(US) first lady **Michelle Obama** was honoured with the **best spoken word album of the year award** for the book *Becoming*.

ICC Awards 2019

The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced on January 15, 2020 the **ICC awards 2019** for recognising and honoring the performance of player between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019.

Award	Player
Player of the Year	Ben Stokes (England)
Test Cricketer of the Year	Pat Cummins (Australia)
ODI Cricketer of the Year	Rohit Sharma (India)
Emerging Cricketer of the Year	Marnus Labuschagne (Australia)
Spirit of Cricket Award	Virat Kohli (India)
T20I Performance of the Year	Deepak Chahar (India)

77th Golden Globe Awards

The 77th annual Golden Globe Awards ceremony was held at The Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California on January 5, 2020. Hollywood star **Joaquin Phoenix** won the **Golden Globes for the Best Actor** in a motion picture-drama for his performance in *Joker*.

Renee Zellweger won the **Best Actress** in a drama category for his performance in *Judy*.

Sam Mendes won the **Best Director** award for 1917.

Miss World 2019

Toni-Ann Singh (23) of Jamaica was crowned as Miss World 2019 at 69th Miss World competition 2019 in London, United Kingdom (UK) on December 15, 2019. She was crowned Miss World title by Miss World 2018-Vanessa Ponce of Mexico.

Miss Universe 2019

Zozibini Tunzi of South Africa was crowned Miss Universe 2019 at the Miss Universe pageant at Atlanta, the United States on December 9, 2019. The two runners-up for the crown were Miss Madison Anderson (Puerto Rico) and Miss Sofía Aragón (Mexico). Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray of the Philippines presented the crown.

International Children's Peace Prize 2019

Divina Maloum (14) from Cameroon and Greta Thunberg (16) from Sweden both received the International Children's Peace Prize 2019 in The Hague, Netherlands on November 21, 2019. Teen activist Greta Thunberg has been awarded for her work in the struggle against climate change. Divina received the prize for her peaceful fight against extremist violence and radicalization.

Indira Gandhi Prize 2019

Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust announced on November 19, 2019 that the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2019 will be conferred on renowned naturalist and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough.

He has been awarded to preserve and protect the biodiversity of our planet. The prize carries a cash award of 2.5 million Indian rupees and a citation.

PERSONS IN NEWS

NATIONAL

Deepika Padukone

Deepika Padukone was honoured with the **annual Crystal Award at World Economic Forum (WEF) 2020** in Davos, Switzerland on January 21, 2020. She has been honoured for her contribution in spreading awareness around mental health.

JP Nadda

Jagat Prakash Nadda was elected unopposed as the **national president of the Bharatiya Janata Party** on January 20, 2020. He replaced Amit Shah who is currently serving as Union Home Minister in the Narendra Modi Cabinet.

Challa Sreenivasulu Setty

The government has appointed Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the **Managing Director (MD) of the State Bank of India (SBI)** for a period of 3 years on January 20, 2020. He is presently serving in the SBI as Deputy Managing Director.

Arjun Munda

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda has been elected as President of the suspended Archery **Association of India (AAI)** on January 18, 2020. He got the support from former AAI President Vijay Kumar Malhotra and defeated BVP Rao by a margin of 34-18 votes.

Michael Debabrata Patra

The government has appointed Michael Debabrata Patra as the **fourth Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on January 14, 2020.

He has replaced Viral Acharya, who had resigned from the post in June last year.

Anand Prakash Maheshwari

Senior IPS officer AP Maheshwari has appointed as the **Director-General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** on January 13, 2020.

He is 1984-batch Uttar Pradesh cadre IPS officer who will be in the post till February 28, 2021, the date of his superannuation.

Bipin Rawat

Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat has been named **India's first Chief of Defence Staff** on December 30, 2019.

The CDS will be a four-star general who will head the department of military affairs and report to the defence minister on warfare and defence strategy for all three Armed Forces.

Vishweshwari Tirtha Swami

Vishvesha Teertha Swami, the head of Pejavara Mutt has passed away at the age of 88 on December 28, 2019.

He was known as the 'Rashtra Swamiji', and a great social reformer.

Sangita Reddy

Dr. Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director of Apollo Hospitals Group was appointed as the President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for the year 2019-20 on December 23, 2019.

Harsh Vardhan Shringla

The Government of India has appointed the Senior Diplomat Harsh Vardhan Shringla as the next Foreign Secretary of India on December 23, 2019.

He will take charge on January 29, 2020 after replacing Vijay Gokhale. He is a 1984 batch IFS Officer and the current Indian Ambassador to the United States.

Ganga Prasad Vimal

Eminent Hindi author Ganga Prasad Vimal has passed away at the age of 80 in Sri Lanka on December 23, 2019. He earlier worked as a Professor in many colleges including Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi from 1999 to 2004.

Shriram Lagoo

Eminent theatre and film actor Dr. Shriram Lagoo has passed away at the age of 92 on December 17, 2019. He was well known for his roles in plays like 'Natsamrat', 'Himalayachi Saoli' and films like 'Pinjra', 'Ek Din Achanak', 'Gharonda', and 'Lawaris'.

Cyrus Mistry

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) restored former Tata group Chairman Cyrus Mistry as executive chairman of Tata Group on December 18, 2019.

BB Kumar

Braj Bihari Kumar, Chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) has passed away at the age of 78 in New Delhi on December 8, 2019.

Girish Chandra Chaturvedi

Girish Chandra Chaturvedi has appointed as the Chairman of National Stock Exchange (NSE) on December 6, 2019.

Lt. Shivangi

Lieutenant Shivangi has become the first woman pilot of Indian after joining the naval operations in Kochi on December 2, 2019.

She will be flying the Dornier surveillance aircraft of the Indian Navy. Navy's Aviation branch earlier has had women officers operating as 'air traffic control officers' and as 'observers'.

Soma Roy Burman

Soma Roy Burman took charge as the 24th Controller General of Accounts (CGA) in the Finance Ministry's Department of Expenditure on December 1, 2019.

Jyoti Sharma

Lieutenant Colonel Jyoti Sharma has been appointed as **Indian Army's first female Judge Advocate General officer** to be deployed on a foreign mission on November 14, 2019.

Virat Kohli

Virat Kohli was named as **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India's 'Person of the Year for 2019'** on November 20, 2019. The Team India captain won the award for his animal advocacy efforts.

TN Seshan

Former Chief Election Commissioner TN Seshan has passed away at the age of 87 on November 10, 2019. He was the 10th Chief Election Commissioner and had served from December 12, 1990, till December 11, 1996.

INTERNATIONAL**Gita Sabharwal**

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Gita Sabharwal of India as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Thailand on January 30, 2020.

Marjan Sarec

Slovenia's Prime Minister Marjan Sarec has announced his resignation to parliament and called for early general elections on January 27, 2020.

His resignation was followed by the resignation of the Finance Minister Andrej Bertonec.

Haitham Bin Tariq Al-Said

Haitham bin Tariq al-Said has been sworn in as the **new Sultan of Oman** on January 11, 2020. He succeeded his cousin Qaboos bin Said who was the Sultan of Oman from July 1970 until his death.

Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said

Oman leader, Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said has passed away at the age of 79 on January 10, 2020. He was succeeded by his cousin and Oman's culture minister Haitham bin Tariq.

Zoran Zaev

Prime Minister of North Macedonia

Zoran Zaev submitted his resignation to the parliament on January 3, 2020. After his resignation, North Macedonia's parliament has approved a new caretaker government headed by Oliver Spasovski.

Hillary Clinton

Former US secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton has been appointed as the **first female Chancellor of UK's Queen's University** on January 2, 2020. She is the University's 11th Chancellor and will serve the post for a period of five years with effect from January 1, 2020. She succeeded Tom Moran, who died last year.

Ashraf Ghani

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani won another five-year term in office, according to preliminary results the election commission announced on December 22, 2019.

He secured 50.6% of the vote compared with 39.52% for Abdullah Abdullah, in the September poll.

Manuel Marrero Cruz

Tourism Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz named as the Cuba's first prime minister since 1976 on December 21, 2019. The post of prime minister was scrapped in 1976 by the then-revolutionary leader and Cuba's last Prime Minister Fidel Castro.

Sethuraman Panchanathan

US President Donald Trump has elected Indian-American computer scientist Sethuraman Panchanathan as director of the National Science Foundation on December 20, 2019.

Danny Aiello

Hollywood actor Danny Aiello has passed away at the age of 86 on December 12, 2019. He was known for his roles in the movies 'Do The Right Thing' and 'The Godfather Part II'.

Abdelmadjid Tebboune

Abdelmadjid Tebboune, former Prime Minister of Algeria was elected as the President of Algeria on December 13, 2019. He took over the power from former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika and former Acting Head of State Abdelkader Bensalah.

Greta Thunberg

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg has been named Time magazine's Person of the Year for 2019 on December 11, 2019. At 16, she is the youngest person to earn the title in the magazine's 92-year history.

Sundar Pichai

Sundar Pichai, the current CEO of Google has been named as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Alphabet on December 4, 2019.

He takes over after chief executive officer Larry Page and president Sergey Brin stepped down; who co-founded Google in 1998.

Bob Willis

Bob Willis, the former England cricket captain has passed away at the age of 70 on Dec. 4, 2019. He was well known for his memorable performance in the third Ashes test in 1981 against Australia.

Masatsugu Asakawa

Masatsugu Asakawa was elected as the 10th President of the ADB by its Board of Governors on December 2, 2019. He is currently Special Advisor to Japan's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and will assume office on January 17, 2020.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Lt. Colonel Gotabaya Rajapaksa was sworn in as the **Sri Lankan President** on November 18, 2019. He will succeed President Maithripala Sirisena for a five-year term.

Jeanine Anez

Jeanine Anez declared herself **interim President of Bolivia** after the resignation of the government of Evo Morales on November 13, 2019. She declared herself President without having a quorum in the Parliament.

Evo Morales

Bolivian President Evo Morales has resigned on November 10, 2019. He served as the President of Bolivia from 2006 to 2019. The Vice-President, Alvaro Garcia Linera and Senate President Adriana Salvatierra, also resigned.

Pravind Jugnauth

Pravind Kumar Jugnauth elected as **Prime Minister of Mauritius for second term** on November 8, 2019. Militant Socialist Movement (MSM) won 38 of the 62 seats up for grabs while its rivals, the Labour Party and the Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM), garnered 14 and 8 seats respectively.

BOOKS & AUTHOR

Book	Author
Relentless	Yashwant Sinha
Human Dignity – A purpose in perpetuity	Ashwani Kumar
The Gateway : A Social Commentary on Safety of Senior Citizens	Hariharan Balagopal
The Renaissance Man-The Many Facets of Arun Jaitley	Muppavarapu Harshavardhan and Deepa Venkat
Dreams of a Billion: India and the Olympic Games	Boria Majumdar and Nalin Mehta
Kumbh, Garam Pahad and Dilli ki Bulbul (Sindhi edition)	Dr. Anita Bhatnagar Jain
The Legacy of Militancy in Punjab: Long Road to Normalcy	Inderjit Singh Jaijee and Dona Suri
The Vault of Vishnu	Ashwin Sanghi
The Third Pillar : How Markets and the State Leave the Community Behind	Raghuram Govind Rajan
Finding the Gaps-Transferable Skills to be the best you can be	Simon James Arthur Taufel
RN Kao : Gentleman Spymaster	Nitin Anant Gokhale
Hemant Karkare -A Daughter's Memoir	Jui Karkare Navare
Suncatcher	Romesh Gunsekera
The Unquiet River : A biography of the Brahmaputra	Arupjyoti Saikia
Kashmir	Chitralakha Zutshi
The Parrot Green Saree	Nabaneeta Sen
The First Sikh : The Life and Legacy of Guru Nanak	Nikky Guninder Kar Singh
Accidental Magic	Keshava Guha
Savarkar : Echoes from a Forgotten Past, 1883-1924	Vikram Sampath

WHO'S WHO

President	Ram Nath Kovind
Vice-President	M Venkaiah Naidu
Prime Minister	Narendra Modi

Cabinet Ministers

Minister	Portfolio
Rajnath Singh	Defence
Amit Shah	Home Affairs
Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Road Transport and Highways; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
DV Sadananda Gowda	Chemicals and Fertilizers
Nirmala Sitharaman	Finance; Corporate Affairs
Ramvilas Paswan	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Narendra Singh Tomar	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Rural Development; Panchayati Raj
Ravi Shankar Prasad	Law and Justice; Communications; Electronics and Information Technology
Harsimrat Kaur Badal	Food Processing Industries
Thaawar Chand Gehlot	Social Justice and Empowerment
Dr. S Jaishankar	External Affairs
Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	Human Resource Development
Arjun Munda	Tribal Affairs
Smriti Zubin Irani	Women and Child Development; Textiles
Dr. Harsh Vardhan	Health and Family Welfare; Science and Technology; Earth Sciences
Prakash Javadekar	Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Information & Broadcasting; Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise

Minister	Portfolio
Piyush Goyal	Railways; Commerce and Industry
Dharmendra Pradhan	Petroleum and Natural Gas; Steel
Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Minority Affairs
Prahlad Joshi	Parliamentary Affairs; Coal; Mines
Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey	Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Giriraj Singh	Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Jal Shakti

Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

Minister	Portfolio
Santosh K. Gangwar	Labour and Employment (Independent Charge)
Rao Inderjit Singh	Statistics and Programme Implementation (Independent Charge); and Planning (Independent Charge)
Shripad Naik	Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) (Independent Charge); Defence
Jitendra Singh	Development of North Eastern Region (Independent Charge); Prime Minister's Office; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space
Kiren Rijiju	Youth Affairs and Sports (Independent Charge); Minority Affairs
Prahlad Singh Patel	Culture (Independent Charge); Tourism (Independent Charge)
Raj Kumar Singh	Power (Independent Charge); New and Renewable Energy (Independent Charge); Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Minister	Portfolio
Hardeep Singh Puri	Housing and Urban Affairs (Independent Charge); Civil Aviation (Independent Charge); Commerce and Industry
Mansukh Mandaviya	Shipping (Independent Charge); Chemicals and Fertilizers

Ministers of State

Minister	Portfolio
Faggansingh Kulaste	Steel
Ashwini Kumar Choubey	Health and Family Welfare
General (Retd) VK Singh	Road Transport and Highways
Arjun Ram Meghwal	Parliamentary Affairs; Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise
Krishan Pal Gurjar	Social Justice and Empowerment
Danve Raosaheb Dadarao	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
G. Kishan Reddy	Home Affairs
Parshottam Rupala	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Ramdas Athawale	Social Justice and Empowerment
Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti	Rural Development
Babul Supriyo	Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Sanjeev Kumar Balyan	Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
Dhotre Sanjay Shamrao	HRD; Communication; Electronics and Information Technology
Anurag Singh Thakur	Finance; Corporate Affairs
Angadi Suresh Channabasappa	Railways
Nityanand Rai	Home Affairs
Rattan Lal Kataria	Jal Shakti ; Social Justice & Empowerment
V. Muraleedharan	External Affairs; Parliamentary Affairs
Renuka Singh Saruta	Tribal Affairs

Minister	Portfolio
Som Parkash	Commerce and Industry
Rameswar Teli	Food Processing Industries
Pratap Chandra Sarangi	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
Kailash Choudhary	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Debasree Chaudhuri	Women and Child Development

Governors and Chief Ministers

State	Governor	Chief Minister
Andhra Pradesh	<i>Biswabhusan Harichandan</i>	Jaganmohan Reddy
Arunachal Pradesh	<i>BD Mishra</i>	Pema Khandu
Assam	<i>Jagdish Mukhi</i>	Sarbananda Sonowal
Bihar	<i>Phagu Chauhan</i>	Nitish Kumar
Chhattisgarh	<i>Anusuiya Uikey</i>	Bhupesh Baghel
Goa	<i>Satya Pal Malik</i>	Pramod Sawant
Gujarat	<i>Acharya Dev Vrat</i>	Vijay Rupani
Haryana	<i>Satyadev Narayan Arya</i>	Manohar Lal Khattar
Himachal Pradesh	<i>Bandaru Dattatraya</i>	Jai Ram Thakur
Jharkhand	<i>Droupadi Murmu</i>	Hemant Soren
Karnataka	<i>Vajubhai R. Vala</i>	BS Yediyurappa
Kerala	<i>Arif Mohammed Khan</i>	P. Vijayan
Madhya Pradesh	<i>Lalji Tandon</i>	Kamal Nath
Maharashtra	<i>Bhagat Singh Koshiyari</i>	Uddhav Thackeray
Manipur	<i>PB Acharya</i>	N. Biren Singh
Meghalaya	<i>Tathagata Roy</i>	Conrad Sangma

State	Governor	Chief Minister
Mizoram	PS Shreedharan Pillai	Zoramthanga
Nagaland	RN Ravi	Nephiu Rio
Odisha	Ganeshi Lal	Naveen Patnaik
Punjab	VP Singh Badnore	Amarinder Singh
Rajasthan	Kalaraj Mishra	Ashok Gehlot
Sikkim	Ganga Prasad	Prem Singh Tamang
Tamil Nadu	Banwarilal Purohit	EK Palanisami
Telangana	Tamilisai Soundararajan	K. Chandrashekar Rao
Tripura	Ramesh Bais	Biplab Deb
Uttar Pradesh	Anandiben Patel	Yogi Adityanath
Uttarakhand	Baby Rani Maurya	Trivendra Singh Rawat
West Bengal	Jagdeep Dhankhar	Mamata Banerjee

Administration of Union Territories

Union Territory	Lt. Governor/ Administrator	Chief Minister
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	DK Joshi	—
Chandigarh	VP Singh Badnore	—
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Prafull Patel (Administrator)	—
Daman and Diu	Prafull Patel (Administrator)	—
Delhi	Anil Bajjal	Arvind Kejriwal
Jammu-Kashmir	Girish Chandra Murmu (Administrator)	—
Ladakh	Radha Krishna Mathur (Administrator)	—

Union Territory	Lt. Governor/ Administrator	Chief Minister
Lakshadweep	Dineshwar Sharma (Administrator)	—
Puducherry	Kiran Bedi	V. Narayanasamy

Chiefs of Armed Forces/ Intelligence Agencies

Force/Agency	Chief
Chief of Defence Staff	General Bipin Rawat
Air Force	Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria
Army	General Manoj Mukund Narawane
Navy	Admiral Karambir Singh
CBI	Rishi Kumar Shukla
Integrated Defence Staff	Lt. General PS Rajeshwar
IB	Arvind Kumar
R&AW	Samant Kumar Goel

Important National Officials

Designation	Name
Chief Justice of India	Sharad Arvind Bobde
Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission	HL Dattu
Chairperson, Central Board of Direct Taxes	PC Mody
Chairperson, University Grants Commission	Dhirendra Pal Singh
Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation	Sivan K.
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission	Kamlesh Vyas
Chairperson, 15th Finance Commission	NK Singh
Chairperson, Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)	Prasoon Joshi
Chairperson, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)	Anita Karwal

Designation	Name
Chief Election Commissioner	<i>Sunil Arora</i>
Attorney General	<i>KK Venugopal</i>
Solicitor General	<i>Tushar Mehta</i>
Chairman, Staff Selection Commission	<i>Braj Raj Sharma</i>
Chairman, Union Public Service Commission	<i>Arvind Saxena</i>
Governor, Reserve Bank of India	<i>Shaktikanta Das</i>
President, BCCI	<i>Saurav Ganguly</i>
President, Indian Olympic Association	<i>Narinder Batra</i>

Heads of Nationalised Banks

Bank	Head/Chairman/MD
<i>State Bank of India</i>	Rajnish Kumar
<i>Bank of Baroda</i>	Sanjeev Chadha
<i>Bank of India</i>	Atanu Kumar Das
<i>Bank of Maharashtra</i>	AS Rajeev
<i>Canara Bank</i>	Lingam Venkata Prabhakar
<i>Central Bank of India</i>	Pallav Mohapatra
<i>Indian Bank</i>	Padmaja Chunduru
<i>Indian Overseas Bank</i>	Karnam Sekar
<i>Punjab National Bank</i>	SS Mallikarjuna Rao

Bank	Head/Chairman/MD
<i>Punjab and Sind Bank</i>	S. Harisankar
<i>Union Bank of India</i>	Rajkiran Rai G.
<i>UCO Bank</i>	Atul Kumar Goel

Important International Officials

Designation	Dignitary
Secretary General, United Nations Organisation	<i>Antonio Guterres</i>
President, World Bank	<i>David Malpass</i>
MD, International Monetary Fund	<i>Kristalina Georgieva</i>
Director General, World Trade Organisation	<i>Roberto Azevedo</i>
President, UN General Assembly (UNGA)	<i>Tijjani Mohammad Bande</i>
Director General, UNESCO	<i>Audrey Azoulay</i>
Director General, WHO	<i>Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus</i>
Director General, IAEA	<i>Rafael Grossi</i>
Executive Director, UNICEF	<i>Henrietta H. Fore</i>
Secretary General, Interpol	<i>Jurgen Stock</i>
Secretary General, Amnesty International	<i>Kumi Naidoo</i>
President, IOC	<i>Thomas Bach</i>
President, FIFA	<i>Gianni Infantino</i>
Chairman, ICC	<i>Shashank Manohar</i>

Name	States	Type	Area (km ²)
Manas	Assam	East Himalayas	2837
Dibru-Saikhowa	Assam	East Himalayas	765
Seshchalam Hills	Andhra Pradesh	Eastern Ghats	4755.997
Great Nicobar (UNESCO)	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Islands	885
Dihang-Dibang	Arunachal Pradesh	East Himalayas	5112
Great Rann of Kachchh	Gujarat	Desert	12454
Cold Desert	Himachal Pradesh	Western Himalayas	7770
Agasthyamalai (UNESCO)	Kerala, Tamil Nadu	Western Ghats	1828
Pachmarhi (UNESCO)	Madhya Pradesh	Semi-Arid	4926
Achanakamar- Amarkantak (UNESCO)	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh	Maikala Range	3835
Nokrek (UNESCO)	Meghalaya	East Himalayas	820
Simlipal (UNESCO)	Odisha	Deccan Peninsula	4374
Khangchendzonga (UNESCO)	Sikkim	East Himalayas	2620
Nilgiri (UNESCO)	Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka	Western Ghats	5520
Gulf of Mannar (UNESCO)	Tamil Nadu	Coasts	10500
Nanda Devi (UNESCO)	Uttarakhand	West Himalayas	5860
Sunderbans (UNESCO)	West Bengal	Gangetic Delta	9630
Panna	Madhya Pradesh	Semi-Arid	2998

UN Conference on the Human Environment	Stockholm (1972)
Convention on Migratory Species	Bonn (1979)
Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer	Vienna (1985)
Pototocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	Montreal (1987)
Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes	Basel (1989)
Earth Summit (UN Conference on Environment and Development)	Rio-de-Janeiro (1992)
Convention on Prior Informed Consent	Rotterdam (1998)
UN Conference on Sustainable Development	Rio-de-Janeiro (2012)
Nagoya Protocol on Genetic Resources (Nagoya Protocol)	Nagoya (2010)
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-CoP-11)	Hyderabad (2012)
Lima Climate Change Conference (CoP-20)	Lima (2014)
Paris Agreement (CoP-21)	Paris (2015)
Marrakech Conference (CoP-22)	Marrakech Morocco (2016)
Bonn Conference (CoP-23)	Bonn (2017)
Katowice Conference (CoP-24)	Katowice, Poland (2018)
Madrid Conference (CoP-25)	Madrid, Spain (2019)

Project	Year	Birds	
Project Hangul	1970		Great Indian Bustard, Forest Owllet, Vulture, Bengal Florican, Himalayan Quail, Siberian Crane
Project Gir	1972		
Project Tiger	1973		
Project Olive Ridley Turtles	1975		
Crocodile Breeding Scheme	1975		
Project Manipur Thamin	1977		
Project Rhino	1987		
Project Elephant	1992		
Project Red Panda	1996		
Project Sea Turtle	1999		
Project Vulture	2006		
Project Snow Leopard	2009		
		Mammals	Flying Squirrel, Red Panda, Pygmy Hog, Kondana Rat, Snow Leopard, Asiatic Lion, One-Horned Rhinoceros
		Reptiles	Gharial, Hawksbill Turtle, River Terrapin, Sispara Day Gecko
		Amphibians	Flying Frog, Tiger Toad

Fat Soluble Vitamins

<i>Vitamin (Name)</i>	<i>Rich Food Source</i>	<i>Function</i>	<i>Deficiency Disease</i>
<i>A (Retinol)</i>	Fish liver oils, dairy products, liver, most leafy vegetables and carrots contain carotene that can be converted into retinol	Needed for healthy epithelial cells and regeneration of rhodopsin in rod cells of the eye	Dry skin and night blindness (Nyctalopia)
<i>D (Calciferol)</i>	Fish oils, egg yolk and butter. It can be made by the action of sunlight on skin	Promotes absorption of calcium from intestines. Necessary for formation of normal bone and reabsorption of phosphate from urine	Rickets in children ('soft' bones that bend easily) Osteomalacia (painful bones) in adults
<i>E (Tocopherol)</i>	Vegetable oils, cereal products and many other foods	Formation of red blood cells, affects muscles and reproductive system.	Mild anaemia and sterility. Deficiency is rare in humans
<i>K (Phylloquinone)</i>	Fresh and dark green vegetables. Also made by gut bacteria	Formation of prothrombin (involved in blood clotting)	Delayed clotting time. May occur in new-born babies before their gut bacteria become established
<i>Vitamin (Name)</i>	<i>Rich Food Source</i>	<i>Function</i>	<i>Deficiency Disease</i>
<i>B₁ (Thiamine)</i>	Yeast, cereals, nuts, seeds and pork	Co-enzyme in cell respiration, necessary for complete release of energy from carbohydrates.	Beri-beri (muscular dystrophy, stunted growth and nerve degeneration)
<i>B₂ (Riboflavin)</i>	Liver, milk, eggs and green vegetables	Co-enzyme in cell respiration. Precursor of FAD	Cracked skin and blurred vision
<i>B₃ (Niacin)</i>	Liver, yeast, whole cereals and beans	Co-enzyme in cell respiration. Precursor of NAD/NADP	Pellagra (severe skin problems, diarrhoea and dementia)
<i>B₅ (Pantothenic acid)</i>	Animal tissue, whole grain cereals and legumes	Needed to manufacture adrenal hormone	Pellagra, Dermatitis and Diarrhoea
<i>B₆ (Pyridoxine)</i>	Meat, fish, eggs, cereals bran and some vegetables	Interconversion of amino acids.	Skin problems and nerve disorder
<i>B₁₀ (Folic acid)</i>	Liver, raw green vegetables, yeast and gut bacteria	Formation of nucleic acids and red blood cells	Anaemia (especially during pregnancy)
<i>B₁₂ (Cyanocobalamin)</i>	Liver, milk, fish and yeast. None in plant foods	Maturation of red blood cells in bone marrow. Maintenance of myelin sheath of nerves	Pernicious anaemia and nerve disorders
<i>C (Ascorbic acid)</i>	Blackcurrants, peppers, sprouts and citrus fruits	Formation of collagen and intercellular cement	Scurvy and poor wound healing