



Guide cum Practice Sets

EPFO

Enforcement Officer Account Officer

with 10 Practice Sets & 3 Solved Papers

Recruitment Exam 2020

Conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

For Quick Revision Sectionwise Theory

General English • Indian Freedom Struggle • Current Events & Developmental Issues • Indian Polity & Economy • General Accounting Principles • Industrial Relations & Labour Law
General Science & Knowledge of Computer Applications • General Mental Ability & Quantitative Aptitude • Social Security in India

Strictly
According to
Prescribed
Syllabus

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2500+
Objective
Questions

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*Compiled & Edited by
Arihant 'Expert Team'*

 arihant

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Enforcement Officer/Account Officer

VACANCY DETAILS

(Vacancy No. 20015101411) Four hundred and twenty one vacancies for the post of Enforcement Officer/Accounts Officer, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, Ministry of Labour and Employment (SC-62, ST-33, OBC- 116, EWS- 42, UR- 168). Of the four hundred and twenty one vacancies, eleven vacancies are reserved for Physically Challenged person.

PAY SCALE

Level-8 in the Pay Matrix as per 7th CPC. General Central Service Group 'B', Non-Ministerial. Age: 30 years.
ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS: (A) EDUCATIONAL: Bachelor's degree in any subject.

A pen & paper based Recruitment Test (RT) to short-list the candidates for Interview for recruitment to the posts of Enforcement Officers/Accounts Officers (Item Nos. 1 above) shall be conducted by the Commission on 04.10.2020.

SYLLABUS AND EXAM PATTERN

Scheme and syllabus for the Recruitment Test (RT) for the posts of Enforcement Officers /Accounts Officers (Item Nos. 1 above) is as under:-

I. SCHEME OF THE RT

- (i) The test will be of two hours duration
- (ii) All questions will carry equal marks.

- (iii) The test will be objective type questions with multiple choices of answer.
- (iv) The medium of the test will be both Hindi and English.
- (v) There will be penalty for wrong answers.

Every wrong answer will carry a deduction of one-third of the marks assigned to that question. If no answer is marked for a question, there will be no penalty for that question.

II. SYLLABUS OF THE RT

The syllabus of the Test broadly comprises the following topics

- (i) General English- To evaluate candidate's understanding of English language & workman- like use of words.
- (ii) Indian Freedom Struggle.
- (iii) Current Events and Developmental Issues.
- (iv) Indian Polity & Economy.
- (v) General Accounting Principles.
- (vi) Industrial Relations & Labour Laws.
- (vii) General Science & knowledge of Computer applications.
- (viii) General Mental Ability & Quantitative Aptitude.
- (ix) Social Security in India.

Guide cum Practice Sets

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Enforcement Officer
Account Officer

**CURRENT
AFFAIRS**

CURRENT AFFAIRS

NATIONAL

India proposes COVID-19 Emergency Funds

India proposed creation of COVID-19 Emergency Fund in SAARC leaders video Conference meeting on March 15, 2020 to frame a strategy in order to fight corona virus. Prime Minister of India attended the Video Conference on behalf of India.

India gave the initial amount of \$ 1 million under COVID-19 Emergency Funds.

India declared COVID-19 as notified Disaster

After more than 100 confirmed COVID Cases, India has declared COVID-19 as notified Disaster on March 15, 2020. With this the SORF Funds are to be temporarily used for supply of food, medical care and water for patients in quarantine Camps.

This will now enable the State government to utilize the funds for treating Corona virus.

Parliament Passed Direct Tax Vivad se Viswas Bill 2020

Parliament Passed on March 14, 2020 the Direct Tax Vivad se Viswas Bill 2020. The bill aims to reduce the number of litigation that are associated with direct tax payments.

The Direct Tax 'vivad se viswas' Concept was introduced by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman during the Union Budget 2020-21.

US President Donald Trump 's Visit to India

The 45th President of the United States Donald Trump's visited India from February 24-25, 2020. It was his maiden India trip during which he hold extensive talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

US President Donald Trump addressed the Namaste Trump event in the Motera Stadium, Ahmedabad. India and the US finalised defence deals worth over \$ 3 billion for advanced American military equipment.

CMS COP13

The thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP13) was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat from February 17-22, 2020.

COP13 was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The theme of CMS COP-13 was 'Migratory species connect the planet and together we welcome them home'. The mascot for CMS COP-13 was Gibi – The Great Indiasn Bustard.

India's First Floating Jetty Inaugurated

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated the India's first floating jetty on the banks of Mandovi river, Goa on February 21, 2020. The floating jetty is made up of cement concrete and will boost inland waterways. The new floating jetty can be resized, realigned and relocated as per requirement.

Government Renamed 4 Railway Stations of Prayagraj

Central and UP government has renamed four railway stations of Prayagraj in order to recognise the identity of the ancient city, on February 21, 2020.

Allahabad Junction will now be known as Prayagraj Junction and Allahabad City will be renamed as Prayagraj Rambag.

Allahabad Chhioki has been changed to Prayagraj Chheeki and the name of Prayagghat has been changed to Prayagraj Sangam.

India Becomes World's 5th Largest Economy

India has emerged as the fifth-largest world economy in 2019, as per a report by US-based think tank World Population Review, on February 18, 2020. India's economy is the fifth largest in the world with a GDP of \$ 2.94 trillion, overtaking the UK economy which amounts to \$ 2.83 trillion and France with \$ 2.71 trillion.

IDSAs Renamed after Manohar Parrikar

The Central Government has decided to rename 'The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses' (IDSAs) as Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses on February 18, 2020.

The decision has been taken to honour late Manohar Parrikar, former defence minister and Padma Bhushan awardee.

IGI Airport Becomes First Single-Use Plastic-Free Airport

Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in Delhi has become the first airport in India to be completely free of single-use plastic usage on

February 17, 2020. The step is being adopted to keep up India's target of abolishing use of single-use plastics by 2022.

Permanent Commission to Army Women Officers

Supreme Court ordered Centre to give permanent commission to all women officers in the Army in service, irrespective of their years of service, on February 17, 2020. The apex court also ordered the central government to implement its judgment in the next three months.

Ambala City Bus Stand Named after Sushma Swaraj

The Haryana government has decided to rename the Ambala City bus stand after former Union minister late Sushma Swaraj on February 16, 2020. The bus stand will now be called Sushma Swaraj Bus Stand. She was born in Ambala Cantt and was elected MLA twice from the Ambala constituency.

Visit of Portugal's President to India

President of Portugal Mr. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa has visited India for the first time from February 13-16, 2020. India and Portugal signed 14 agreements in areas including defence, culture and yoga.

He inaugurated the Cha-Chai, an installation of artwork of Joana Vasconcelos (Portuguese artist) at the National Museum in New Delhi. Portugal extended support for India's bid for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

First Inter-City Electric Bus Service Inaugurated

Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the first inter-city electric bus service, between Mumbai and Pune on February 14, 2020. The 43-seater capacity luxury electric bus is manufactured by Mitra Mobility Solution.

President Kovind Awarded President's Colour to INS Shivaji

President Ram Nath Kovind has presented the President's Colour to INS Shivaji in Lonavala, Maharashtra on February 13, 2020. The President's Colour, the highest honour that can be bestowed upon any military unit. INS Shivaji was established in 1945 and it is one of the premier training establishments of Indian Navy.

Two Famous Institutes Renamed after Sushma Swaraj

The government of India has renamed Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra and the Foreign Service Institute after Foreign Minister Late Sushma Swaraj on February 13, 2020.

The Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, a cultural centre reflecting India's connect with its diaspora, has been renamed as Sushma Swaraj Bhavan.

Medical Equipment Used on Humans Notified as 'Drugs'

Union Health Ministry has issued a notification declaring all medical devices used on humans or animals as the category of 'drugs' on February 11, 2020. The list of such equipment includes disposable syringes, needles, cardiac stents, catheters, heart valves, X-ray and ultrasound machines, etc.

NIFM Renamed after Arun Jaitley

The government has decided to rename National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad as Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM). The National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad was established in 1993.

Chhattisgarh's 28th District Inaugurated

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has inaugurated Gaurela- Pendra-Marwahi as the 28th district of the state on February 10, 2020.

The new district is carved out of Bilaspur and has three tehsils and three development blocks namely Gaurela, Pendra and Marwahi. It comprises 166 gram panchayats, 222 villages and two nagar panchayats.

India Bans e-Cigarettes on Flights and Airports

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has announced the ban on e-cigarettes in both domestic and international flights and at airports on February 10, 2020. The government imposed the ban under the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Act, which was passed in December 2019.

DefExpo-2020 Held

DefExpo-2020 is a flagship biennial event of the Ministry of Defence which was held for the first time in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh from February 5-9, 2020. The main theme of the DefExpo India- 2020 was India : The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub and the focused on Digital Transformation of Defence.

Visit of Sri Lankan PM Mahinda Rajapaksa to India

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa arrived in New Delhi on a state visit to India from February 8-11, 2020. This is his first visit to India since taking office in November 2019.

He visited the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi, Sarnath Buddhist Temple and Tirupati temple, Andhra Pradesh to offer prayers.

Cauvery Delta Region Declared as Protected Agricultural Zone

Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) has declared that eight districts in the State's Cauvery delta region would be declared a 'protected agricultural zone', on February 9, 2020.

Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Trichy, Ariyalur, Nagapattinam, Pudukkottai, Cuddalore and Karur are the eight districts that come under the protected zone.

Lakshman Jhula to be Replaced by Glass Floor Bridge

The Uttarakhand government has approved the design of an India's first glass floor suspension bridge, which will be built across the River Ganga in Rishikesh.

The bridge is as an alternative to the iconic Lakshman Jhula, almost 94 years old, which was closed in 2019 due to safety reasons.

The toughened glass floor will be 3.5 inches thick and capable of bearing a load of more than 750 kg per square metre at a stretch.

Income Tax Department Launched e-Calculator

The Income Tax Department has launched an e-calculator for individuals to estimate and compare their tax liability under the new tax slabs as compared to the existing regime on February 6, 2020. The calculator takes into account eligible exemptions and deductions, as proposed under the new regime, after being extracted from the Budget memorandum 2020.

Prince Charles Unveiled Children's Protection Fund for India

Britain's Prince Charles has unveiled a new children's protection fund for India as part of British Asian Trust on February 6, 2020. The British Asian Trust Children's Protection Fund will protect the child from child labour, child sexual abuse, anti-trafficking fund in South Asia.

PM Modi Announced Trust for Ayodhya Temple

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced to set up a trust, named Shri Ram

Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra, for the construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya, on February 5, 2020. There will be 15 trustees in the trust while one trustee will always be from Dalit society. In this regard, 67 acres of land near the temple area has been allocated to the trust.

Classical Swine Fever Vaccine Released

ICAR-IVRI has released the "Live attenuated Classical Swine Fever Cell Culture Vaccine (Indigenous Strain) at the Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi on February 3, 2020. Live Attenuated Vaccines (LAV) are vaccines prepared from living microorganisms (viruses, bacteria) that have been weakened under laboratory conditions.

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 'Vyommित्र' for Gaganyaan

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has unveiled a half-humanoid or human-robot named 'Vyommित्र' 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.

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.

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.

Government Released ₹ 5908 Crore for Disaster Relief

The Centre has released ₹ 5908 crore of Central assistance to seven states which were affected by floods, landslides, cloudburst during the previous year. The decision was taken on January 6, 2020 at a High-Level Committee meeting headed by Home Minister Amit Shah. The financial assistance has been given to Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). During this financial year, the Central government has so far released ₹ 8068 crore to 27 states as Central share from State Disaster Response Fund. Union Government is providing full support to the States by providing logistics and financial resources to effectively deal with the natural calamities.

Indian Railway Integrated One Helpline Number of '139'

To overcome the inconvenience over multiple helpline numbers for grievances and enquiry during railway travel, Indian Railway on January 2, 2020 has integrated railway helplines into single number 139 for the passengers for quick grievance redressal and enquiry during their journey.

The Helpline 139 will be available in twelve languages. It will be based on IVRS (Interactive Voice Response System). There is no need of a smart phone to call on 139, thus, providing easy access to all mobile users. The new helpline number 139 took over all the existing helpline numbers (except 182), meant easy for the passengers to remember this number and connect with Railways for all their needs during the travel.

'One Nation, One Ration Card' Implemented in 12 States

Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan on January 1, 2019 announced that the 'one nation, one ration card' facility has been started in 12 states in the country on the first day of the New Year. ONOR Card facility has been started in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Jharkhand and Tripura.

Chandrayan-3 Announced by ISRO

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chief K. Sivan on January 1, 2020 announced that India's third lunar mission Chandrayan-3 on and has been approved by the government. The configuration of Chandrayan-3 will be similar to that of Chandrayan-2. This means that the Chandrayan-3 will also have a lander and a rover with propulsion module. The Chandrayan-3 mission is stated to launch in 2021.

General Bipin Rawat Appointed India's First CDS

Army Chief General Bipin Rawat was named the country's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) on December 30, 2019 in a move announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Independence Day. General Rawat took over as the CDS, the same day he retires as the Army Chief.

The CDS would be the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee which has the three service chiefs as members, and the other of the head of the newly created Department of Military Affairs (DMA) in the ministry. The CDS has the status of a Cabinet Secretary, but functionally will head a department headed by a Secretary. Also, he will be under a ministry where the Defence Secretary is in charge of the ministry. The chief of defence

staff can serve till the age of 65. As the CDS, he would be in direct contact with the Prime Minister on security issues and the chiefs of the Army, Navy and the Air Force would report to him.

The need for the post of a Chief of Defence Staff to oversee the military was identified after the Kargil war of 1999. The recommendation was made by a committee set up to security lapses after the war.

Hemant Soren, New CM of Jharkhand

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) led alliance won an absolute majority in Jharkhand elections by winning 47 seats in 81 member assembly. Hemant Soren, leader of JMM sworn in as the CM of Jharkhand on 29th December, 2019. He is the 11th Chief Minister of Jharkhand.

Atal Bhujal Scheme Launched

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Atal Bhujal Yojana on December 25, 2019 in New Delhi. The scheme is aimed at improving groundwater management through community participation, stressing on the need to use technology which helps prevent wastage of water in various spheres, including agriculture. This scheme will provide piped water to all rural household in next 5 years.

Rohtang Tunnel Named After Atal Bihari Vajpayee

The Union Cabinet approved a proposal on December 4 to rename Rohtang tunnel after the former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee as 'Atal Tunnel'. The strategic tunnel is 8.8 km long. It is the longer above the altitude of 3000 meter in the world. Rohtang tunnel being constructed from Leh to Manali.

Union Cabinet Approves NPR

The Union Cabinet on 24th December, 2019 gave its nod to update the National Population Register (NPR). The NPR will now updated along with the house-listing phase of census 2021 from April to September 2020. NPR was published first time in 2010. Union cabinet approves ₹ 13 thousand crore for census 2021.

Citizenship [Amendment] Act 2019

The Citizenship [Amendment] Act 2019 was passed by the parliament on December 11, 2019 and the President of India Ramnath Kovind gave his nod on December 13, 2019. This Amendment providing a path to Indian citizenship for Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian religious minorities fleeing persecution from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde Appointed as 47th CJI

President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde as the 47th Chief Justice of India on October 29, 2019. He succeeded Ranjan Gogoi and will have tenure of over 17 months as the CJI and is due to retire on April 23, 2021. He was appointed as an additional judge of Bombay High Court in 2000. He joined as Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court in 2012 and was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court of India in 2013.

PM Modi Visited to Saudi Arabia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia from October 28-29, 2019 with an aim to boost bilateral ties between the two countries in key sectors, including energy and finance. India signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia to launch the RuPay Card in Saudi, making it the third nation in the West Asia to initiate India's digital payment system. PM Modi addressed the 3rd edition of the Future Investment Initiative Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and also reiterated about the aim of India to achieve \$ 5 trillion economy by 2024.

Maharashtra & Haryana Assembly Election Result

Maharashtra and Haryana state Assembly Election was held on October 21, 2019 and its result was declared on October 24, 2019. The BJP and Shiv Sena have won with total 161 seats; the BJP won 105 seats in the Maharashtra assembly elections 2019, while the Shiv Sena won 56. Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis also registered a victory from his Nagpur South West constituency. The BJP won 40 seats in the Haryana assembly elections 2019. BJP's Manohar Lal Khattar was sworn in as Haryana's 11th Chief Minister for second term on Oct. 27, 2019. Jannayak Janta Party's (JJP) leader Dushyant Chautala took the oath as the Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana.

Govt. Approved Girls to Enter Sainik Schools from 2021

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved a proposal for admission of girls in Sainik schools across India for academic session 2021-22 on Oct. 18, 2019. The decision has been taken following the success of the pilot project started by the Ministry of Defence for admission of girl children in Sainik School Chhingchhip in Mizoram two years ago.

President Ram Nath Kovind Visit to Philippines and Japan

President Ram Nath Kovind made a seven-day official visit to Philippines and Japan from October 17-23, 2019. It was his first state visit to the Philippines and both nations celebrated 70 years of the India-Philippines democratic relations. After his visit to Philippines, he visited to Tokyo, Japan and attended the enthronement ceremony of the Emperor Naruhito of Japan in the Imperial Palace.

Livestock Census 2019

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying released the 20th livestock census 2019, which provides headcount data of domesticated animals in the country on October 16, 2019. In 2019, the total livestock population (535.78 million) has registered a growth of 4.6% over the last census in 2012 (512.06 million). Among the States, Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of livestock of 67.8 million followed by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

India Mobile Congress 2019

3rd edition of India Mobile Congress 2019 was held in Aerocity, New Delhi from October 14-16, 2019 under the theme, 'Imagine :

A new connected world, Intelligent Immersive Incentive'.

IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad unveiled the world's largest disaggregated packet-optical switch for 5G named TJI600S/I manufactured by Tejas.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's Visit To India

Chinese President Xi Jinping visited India as part of his maiden 2-day visit from October 11-12, 2019 to take part in the 2nd India-China informal summit with PM Narendra Modi.

PM Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in the ancient coastal town of Mamallapuram or Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu for a second India-China Informal Summit on October 12, 2019.

PM Narendra Modi gifted Nachiarkoil, a six-feet Annam lamp coated with gold and also a three-feet high Thanjavur painting of dancing Saraswathi (Goddess) and also a gold-and-red silk handwoven shawl bearing his image to Jinping.

Central Govt. Employee Family Pension Increased

Central government has decided to increase the family pension for central government

employee who dies within 7 years of service from 30% to 50% of last pay drawn for 10 years as pension. The benefit is available to all govt. servants including personnel of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

School Education Quality Index

NITI Aayog released the School Education Quality Index (SEQI) to evaluate the performance of states and UTs in the school education sector on September 30, 2019. Among 20 large States, Kerala was ranked first followed by Rajasthan and Karnataka for overall performance while Uttar Pradesh came in last.

National Rural Sanitation Strategy Launched (2019-29)

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Gol launched the 10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-29) on Sept. 27, 2019.

The strategy focuses on sustaining the change in sanitation behaviour that has been achieved under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G).

INS Khanderi & INS Nilgiri Commissioned into Indian Navy

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned India's second attack submarine INS Khanderi into the Indian Navy in a ceremony held at the Mazagon Docks in Mumbai on September 28, 2019. He also commissioned India's first P-17 Shivalik-class frigate Nilgiri and the aircraft carrier drydock (Largest ever) into the Indian Navy during the ceremony.

India's First Indigenous High Temperature Fuel Cell System

President Ram Nath Kovind unveiled the India's first Indigenous High Temperature Fuel Cell System on the occasion of CSIR 78th Foundation Day in New Delhi on September 26, 2019.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) developed the new fuel system in partnership with Indian industries under India's flagship program named 'New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative'.

Defence Minister Commissioned Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Varaha'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Coast Guard ship 'ICGS Varaha', the fourth in the series of seven 98-m Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) at the Chennai Port Trust on September 25, 2019. It can attain a maximum speed of 26 knots and has been designed and built indigenously by Larsen & Toubro (L&T).

The vessel is equipped with a 30 mm gun and a 12.7 mm gun for enhancing the fighting efficiency of the vessel.

'TB Harega Desh Jeetega' Campaign Launched

Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched the new 'TB Harega Desh Jeetega' Campaign, along with the National TB Prevalence Survey on September 25, 2019. The campaign has been launched with an aim to eliminate tuberculosis from India by 2025.

He also launched 25 National TB Prevalence Survey vans to carry out a survey across the country in the next six months and also released TB India Report 2019.

President Inaugurated 6th India Water Week 2019

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 6th 'India Water Week-2019' in New Delhi on September 24, 2019. It was organised by Ministry of Jal Shakti with the theme of 'Water cooperation-coping with 21st-century challenge'. India Water Week-2019 was focused on issues like water scarcity, development of inland water ways, cleaning river Ganga, etc.

Government Launched 'UMMID' Initiative for New Born Babies

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan launched Unique Methods of Management and treatment of Inherited Disorders (UMMID) to tackle the menace of genetic diseases in newborns on September 23, 2019. He also launched five National Inherited Diseases Administration (NIDAN) kendras under UMMID scheme.

ISRO Initiated 'Project NETRA'

ISRO has initiated Project NETRA (Network for space object Tracking and Analysis), an early warning system that would help detect space hazards to Indian satellites. NETRA can spot, track and catalogue objects as small as 10 cm, up to a range of 34,000 km and equal to a space orbit of around 2,000 km.

Digital Census in 2021

Home Minister Amit Shah has announced on September 23, 2019 that the 2021 census will be a 'digital census' in which a mobile app will be used to collect data. The process of a 'Pen-Paper Census' would be transformed into a 'Digital Census' in the 2021 to promote Digital India Programme.

This nationwide exercise will be carried out in 16 languages at a cost of ₹12000 crore. Census 2021 will be the sixteenth census in the country and eighth since Independence.

Chandrayan-2 Lost Communication with ISRO Centre

The lander of Chandrayan-2 deviated from its intended trajectory on September 6, 2019 at altitude of 2.1 km from lunar surface.

Chandrayan-2 has lost communication with ISRO centre when touch down confirmation was expected. ISRO had confirmed that the location of the lander has been found and the organisation trying to re-communicate with the space craft.

The second mission of Moon by India, Chandrayan-2 was launched from the second launch pad at Satish Dhawan space centre on July 22, 2019 by GSLV MK III.

HRD Ministry Launched 'NISHTHA'

Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA), world's largest teachers' training programme in New Delhi on August 22, 2019. The main objective of the NISHTHA programme is to equip and motivate the teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking among students.

Indian Railways to Ban Single-Use Plastics

The Indian Railways on August 21, 2019 has decided to enforce a ban on single-use plastic materials on its premises, including trains, with effect from October 2 this year. While directing the authorities to expedite installation of 1853 plastic water bottle crushing machines at 360 major stations in the first phase, the Railway Board asked IRCTC to implement return of plastic drinking bottles as part of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

No Article-370 for Jammu & Kashmir

The government on August 5, 2019 moved a resolution in the Rajya Sabha to repeal Article 370 of the Constitution which accords special status to Jammu and Kashmir. Government has decided to bifurcate the state into two Union Territories – Jammu and Kashmir, which will have a legislature, and Ladakh, which will be without a legislature. Article 370 allows the state constituent Assembly to make its own Constitution, thereby giving it an "autonomous state" power.

KIIFB's London Masala Bond Listing

The Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) celebrated its debut Masala Bond listing on the London Stock Exchange with a special market open ceremony on May 17, 2019. The KIIFB is the first sub-sovereign entity in India to tap the offshore Rupee international bond market.

Payment & Settlement Systems in India : Vision 2019-21

The RBI has released the Payment and Settlement Systems in India : Vision 2019-21 on May 15, 2019. It was released with the theme 'Empowering Exceptional (E)payment Experience'.

India Re-elected in Arctic Council

India has been re-elected as an Observer to the Arctic Council during the 11th Arctic Council ministerial meeting at Rovaniemi (Finland) on May 7, 2019. India was an Observer at the Council from 2013 onwards.

Lokpal Website Inaugurated

Lokpal chairperson Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose inaugurated the website of Lokpal on May 16, 2019. The website has been developed by NIC and provides the basic information with respect to the working and functioning of the Lokpal. The website can be accessed at <http://lokpal.gov.in>.

India Signed 'Christchurch Call to Action'

India signed the 'Christchurch Call to Action' on May 15, 2019. The agreement is aimed at stopping abuse of the Internet by extremists. It has been initiated by the governments of France and New Zealand along with top social media companies.

Army Commanders' Conference Held

The biannual Army Commanders' conference was held in New Delhi from April 8-13, 2019. During the conference, issues like management of the extant security dynamics, mitigation of future security threats and enhancement of combat edge over potential adversaries were discussed.

INTERNATIONAL

WHO declares COVID-19 as Global Pandemics

World Health Organisation declared corona Virus (COVID-19) as Global Pandemic as it is rapidly spreading across the world.

The Virus has so far Killed more than 5300 people.

The recent pandemics include 2009 H₁N₁ and 1918 Influenza Pandemic (Spanish H₁N₁).

Pakistan Retained on Grey List of FATF

Pakistan has been included in the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for another four months till June 2020, on February 21, 2020. The grey list contains those countries that have deficiencies in their Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and combating the financing of terrorism (CFT) regime.

World Language Database Ethnologue Released

The 22nd edition of the world language database Ethnologue was published by US based, Christian NPO Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), covering 7,111 living languages of the world on February 18, 2020.

English is the topmost spoken language in the world with 1,132 million speakers followed by Chinese Mandarin with 1117 million speakers.

Worldwide Education for the Future Index 2019

The Economist Intelligence Unit has released the Worldwide Educating for the Future Index (WEFFI) 2019 which ranks countries based on their abilities to equip students with skill-based education, on February 18, 2020.

Finland has been ranked at the top of the index, followed by Sweden and New Zealand at second and third position, respectively.

India has been ranked 35th on the overall index in 2019 with a total score of 53. While in 2018, it was ranked at 40th position. The bottom three nations in the index were Kenya (48th), Nigeria (49th) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (50th).

Ashraf Ghani won Second Term as Afghan President

Incumbent President Ashraf Ghani has been declared as the winner of Afghanistan's presidential election on February 18, 2020.

According to the Independent Election Commission (IEC), Ghani gained 50.64% of the vote after beating Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, who secured 39.52% of votes.

UAE is First Arab Nation to Issue Nuclear Reactor License

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has issued an Operating license for a reactor at its Barakah nuclear power plant on February 17, 2020.

With this, UAE became the first Arab country in the world to operate a nuclear power plant.

The Barakah nuclear power plant is located in Abu Dhabi and has been built by Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO).

NASA and ESA Launched Solar Orbiter

The NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA) has launched their collaborative mission 'Solar Orbiter' on a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, US on February 9, 2020.

Solar Orbiter's unique trajectory and comprehensive set of instruments will provide the first-ever images of the Sun's north and south poles.

WHO Coined Official Name for Coronavirus as COVID-19

The WHO officially renamed the disease caused by the virus strain from 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease to 'coronavirus disease 2019' (COVID-19) on February 11, 2020. 'CO' stands for coronavirus, 'VI' stands for the virus, 'D' stands for disease and numerical '19' stands for the year it was detected.

Launch of International Religious Freedom Alliance

The United States of America (USA) has announced the launch of a 27-nation International Religious Freedom Alliance on February 5, 2020. The Alliance will try to adopt a collective approach in protecting and preserving religious freedom across the world. Among the prominent countries to join the alliance are Austria, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Israel, Ukraine, the Netherlands and Greece.

Breathable Oxygen Discovered in Galaxy Outside of Milky Way

A team of astronomers at China's Shanghai Astronomical Observatory, led by Junzhi Wang has identified molecular oxygen in a galaxy outside the Milky Way. The team identified the presence of molecular oxygen by analyzing light waves that had reached Earth from Markarian 231, a galaxy around 581 million light years away.

Bhutan Ended Free Entry for Indian Tourists

The government of Bhutan on February 4, 2020 Thimphu has decided to implement a daily fee of ` 1200 (\$ 17) for 'regional tourists' from India, the Maldives, Bangladesh from July 2020.

The fee, called a Sustainable Development Fee (SDF), is a provision recently introduced by the Bhutanese government to help regulate the heavy tourist traffic in the country.

Jordan, Pakistan & Somalia Declared Locusts a 'National Emergency'

The Federal Republic of Somalia and Pakistan and Jordan has declared the Desert Locust invasion a matter of national emergency in February 2020. Locust caused major damage to the food supply in the major regions of Somalia Pakistan and Jordan.

Maldives Rejoined Commonwealth of Nations

Maldives, the small island nation has officially re-joined as the 54th member of the Commonwealth on February 1, 2020. The Maldives had joined the Commonwealth in 1982 however, withdrew its membership in 2016 by its former President Abdulla Yameen.

Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi Appointed as New PM of Iraq

Iraq's President Barhim Salih has appointed Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi as the country's new Prime Minister on February 1, 2020. He succeeded Adil Abdul-Mahdi who resigned in November 2019 due to anti-government protests.

NASA Decommissioned Spitzer Space Telescope

The NASA has decommissioned its Spitzer Space Telescope, which was first launched in 2003 on January 31, 2020. This telescope was used to study the universe by detecting cosmic infrared radiation for more than 16 years.

It studied formation of star and planet, the composition of interstellar dust and found a previously unidentified ring around Saturn.

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.

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 Fearn. 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.

UAE Approved Issuance of 5-Year Multi-entry Tourist Visa

The UAE Cabinet on January 7, 2019 has approved the issuance of a five-year multi-entry tourist visa for all nationalities visiting the country. The decision was made during the Cabinet's first meeting of 2020. The move comes in a bid to support the UAE's tourism economy, and affirm the country's position as a global tourist destination.

The country receives 21 million tourists annually and their aim is to establish the country as a major global tourist destination. The decision is also likely to benefit the near and dear ones of the lakhs of expat population staying in UAE.

Sebastian Kurz Became World's Youngest Chancellor

Conservative Sebastian Kurz was sworn on January 7, 2020 as Austria's chancellor, completing a comeback from the collapse of his previous government as the leader of a new and very different coalition, with the Greens. Kurz, 33, returned to the top job after a seven-month absence. The Cabinet sworn in by President Alexander Van der Bellen is Austria's first with a female majority and marks the first time that the environmentalist Greens have entered the country's national government. Kurz reclaims the title of the world's youngest serving head of government from Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin, 34, who took office in December 2019.

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

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.

Sanna Marin Appointed PM of Finland

Sanna Marin became the new Prime Minister of Finland appointed by the President. She became the world's youngest serving premier in the world. Sanna Marin took the post after the resignation of Antti Rinne over his handling of a postal strike. The new government, consisting of 12 female and 7 male minister when Sanna Marin nominated on December 10, 2019.

UNDP HDI Report 2019

India inched up one spot to rank 129th out of 189 countries on the 2019 Human Development Index (HDI) released by the United Nations Development programme (UNDP). *The top five countries in HDI 2019 list are*

1. Norway
2. Switzerland
3. Ireland
4. Germany
5. Hong Kong

India-US 2+2 Meeting Held

The United States hosted an inter-sessional meeting of the US-India 2+2 Dialogue in California on December 19, 2019 to discuss ways to advance cooperation on critical diplomatic and security priorities. The inter-sessional meeting was aimed at strengthening the strategic partnership. The two sides discussed ways to advance cooperation on critical diplomatic and security priorities, including our shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific region, and reviewed preparations for the next 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue.

Sophie Wilmes Appointed as First Female PM of Belgium

Belgium's king has appointed Sophie Wilmes as the country's new Prime Minister on October 27, 2019, making her the first woman to hold the office. She replaced Charles Michel, who is set to take over as European Council President on December 1. She served as Budget Minister from 2015 to 2019.

Alberto Fernandez Won Argentina Presidential Election

Argentina's left-leaning candidate Alberto Fernandez won the presidential election in the first round on October 27, 2019. He won 48.1% of the vote after beating current President Mauricio Macri who got 40.4% of the vote. He will assume the Presidency on December 10, 2019 and ex-president Cristina Kirchner will be his Vice-President.

Indonesia's President Joko Widodo Sworn in for Second Term

Indonesia's President Joko Widodo has been sworn into office for his second and final five-year term as the 7th President of Indonesia on October 27, 2019. He won the presidential poll with 55% of votes in April, 2019. He was previously the Mayor of Surakarta from 2005 to 2012 and the Governor of Jakarta from 2012 to 2014.

Mokgweetsi Masisi elected as President of Botswana

Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi was elected as the fifth President of the Republic of Botswana on Oct. 25, 2019. He has also served as Minister of Education since 2014, and previously he was Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration from 2011 to 2014. On April 1, 2018, he was sworn in as the 5th President of Botswana, after Ian Khama's resignation.

Sri Lanka Removed from FATF's Grey List, Pakistan to Remain

Sri Lanka has been removed from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Grey list of countries at risk for money laundering on October 19, 2019. Sri Lanka was declared a cooperating state in 2016 and the FATF put Sri Lanka on a grey list from November 2017. The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has decided to put Pakistan on its grey list till Feb. 2020.

Christine Lagarde Appointment as President of ECB

European Union (EU) leaders have confirmed the appointment of Christine Lagarde as the new chief of the European Central Bank (ECB) on October 18, 2019. She was the former chief of the International Monetary Fund and will replace Mario Draghi at ECB from November 1, 2019. Her confirmation for a non-renewable term of eight years comes after EU leaders nominated her for the position on July 2, 2019.

China Unveiled New Commercial Carrier Rockets

China Rocket, the commercial space wing of rocket-maker China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, has unveiled its new generation commercial carrier rockets code-named 'Smart Dragon' and liquid-propellant rocket 'Tenglong' on October 20, 2019. These rockets could carry up to 1.5 tonne payload.

Global TB Report 2019

The WHO has released its 2019 edition of the Global Tuberculosis (TB) Report on October 17, 2019. The main aim of the report is to

provide a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the TB epidemic and of progress in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the disease, at global, regional and country levels.

Global Hunger Index 2019

Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide and German organization Welt Hunger Hilfe has jointly published the fourteenth annual publication of the Global Hunger Index 2019 on October 15, 2019. The 2019 Global Hunger Index is calculated for 117 countries for which data are available and reflects data from 2014 to 2018.

India ranked 102nd out of 117 countries in 2019, while in 2018, India ranked 103rd out of 119 qualifying countries.

Saudi Arabia to Offer Tourist Visas for the First Time

Saudi Arabia announced that tourist visas will be issued for the first time to visitors from 49 countries around the world on September 27, 2019. Tourists from 38 countries in Europe, 7 in Asia, as well as the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, will be eligible to apply for the new visas from September 28, 2019. It also launched e-tourist visa during the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTH) in Riyadh.

Southeast Asia's Largest Solar Power Farm Unveiled

The Dau Tieng Solar Power Complex, largest solar project in Southeast Asia has been inaugurated in Vietnam. With a capacity of 420 MW, it was constructed on the Dau Tieng Reservoir, the largest artificial lake in Vietnam. The Complex is a joint venture with the Thai industrial group B.Grimm Power Public Company and has an investment of more than \$ 391 million.

EU Mounted Pressure on Brazil over Amazon Fires

The European Union overwhelmingly mounted pressure on Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on August 23, 2019 over fires raging in the Amazon basin, with Ireland and France stated that they could block a trade deal and Finland urging a ban on Brazilian beef imports.

Sri Lanka Ended Emergency Rule

Sri Lanka on August 23, 2019 ended four months of emergency rule imposed after Easter Sunday suicide attacks killed more than 260 people, the president's office.

Two local Muslim groups have been blamed for the attacks on three churches and three hotels in and around Colombo and the eastern town of Batticaloa.

Terror Funding Watchdog FATF Blacklisted Pakistan

Pakistan has been placed on the lowest rung, or 'blacklist', of the Financial Action Task Force's Asia Pacific Group (APG) for non-compliance and non-enforcement of safeguards against terror financing and money laundering.

The APG, one of nine regional affiliates of the FATF, met in Canberra from August 23, 2019 to discuss a five-year review of the Mutual Evaluation Report for Pakistan, and decided to place it among countries requiring 'enhanced, expedited follow-up'.

Iran Unveiled Mobile Missile Defence System

Iran displayed what it described as a domestically built long-range, mobile surface-to-air missile system on August 22, 2019. The announcement comes at a time of rising tension between Iran and United States.

The Bavar-373 system, which Iranian media have described as a competitor to the Russian S-300 missile system, is an indigenous long-range air defense missile system.

Saudi Arabia Implemented End to Travel Restrictions for Women

Saudi Arabia has implemented to allow adult women to travel without permission from August 21, 2019 onwards following royal decrees approving the changes. Riyadh has long faced international criticism over the status of Saudi women.

The regulatory changes stipulated that a Saudi passport should be issued to any citizen who applies for it and that any person above the age of 21 does not need permission to travel.

India, Zambia Signed 6 Pacts

India and Zambia on August 21, 2019 signed six agreements in key sectors such as mineral resources and defence after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Zambian President Edgar Chagwa Lungu held wide-ranging talks to strengthen ties. After the delegation-level talks, MoUs were signed between the two sides.

USA Test-fired a New Cruise Missile

The United States on August 20, 2019 tested a new ground-based cruise missile that is capable covering 500 km in the range at San Nicolas Island, California, the US. This range of missiles was banned in the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed between the US and Russia. This is the first missile test done by the US after withdrawing from the INF treaty.

Missile/Weapon System Test

Missile	Description
Pinak Missile System	DRDO successfully test fired Pinak Missile system on 19-20 December, 2019. Its Mark II variant and has a range of 75 km.
Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile	The Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) on August 4, 2019 successfully test-fired the indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha.
Prithvi-II	India successfully test-fired indigenously developed nuclear-capable missile Prithvi-II from a test range off the Odisha coast on June 28, 2019.
HSTDV	India on June 12, 2019 successfully test-fired Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) off the Odisha Coast.
Anti-ship Variant of BrahMos	The DRDO has test-fired an anti-ship variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile at the ITR in Chandipur along the coast of Odisha on June 4, 2019.
Akash-MK-1S	The DRDO has successfully test-fired Akash-MK-1S missile from Chandipur (Odisha) on May 27, 2019. It is an upgraded version of existing Akash missile with indigenous technology.
Inertially-Guided Bomb	The DRDO on May 24, 2019 successfully test-fired an indigenously developed 500 kg inertially-guided bomb at the Pokhran test-firing range in Rajasthan.
MRSAM	The Indian Navy has successfully tested a Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) on May 17, 2019.
Air Version of BrahMos	Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully test-fired the air-launched version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from its frontline Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft on May 22, 2019.
ABHYAS	The DRDO conducted successful flight test of ABHYAS-High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) from Chandipur (Odisha) on May 13, 2019.

Armed Forces Exercises

Name (Duration)	Participant	Venue	Description
Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR 2020	–	–	The fifth edition of India-UK joint military exercise 'Ajeya Warrior' was conducted at Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom from February 13-26, 2020.
Military Exercise Sampri-IX	–	–	9th edition of the joint Indo-Bangladesh military exercise named SAMPRITI-IX was conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya from February 3-16, 2020. A Command Post Exercise (CPX) and a Field Training Exercise (FTX) was conducted during SAMPRITI-IX.
Matla Abhiyaan Exercise	–	–	Indian Navy has conducted 5-day coastal security exercise, 'Matla Abhiyaan' in Kolkata, West Bengal from January 29, 2020. The exercise was conducted with an aim to create awareness about the coastal security to the local community & understand the navigational complexities in the Sunderban delta waters.
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.

Name (Duration)	Participant	Venue	Description
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.
Dustiik-2019	–	–	The first-ever India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise Dustiik-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.
Surya Kiran XIV (3-16 Dec, 2019)	India and Nepal	Nepal	Indian and Nepal army exercise on jungle warfare.
Tiger Triumph (13-21 Nov. 2019)	India and USA	USA	Indian and USA army and Navy participated in this bi-service exercise
Shakti 2019 (1-13 Nov. 2019)	India and France	Mahajan Range, Rajasthan	21st the Sikh Regiment and French Army participated in this exercise.
SIMBEX 19 (May 19-22, 2019)	India and Singapore	South China Sea	Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) is an annual bilateral naval exercise, which was first initiated in 1993.
Varuna 19 (May 1-10 and 22-25, 2019)	India and France	Goa Coast and Djibouti	It was the 17th edition of the bilateral naval exercise, which initiated in 1983.
Group Sail (May 3-9, 2019)	Japan, USA, Philippines and India	South China Sea	It was aimed to deepen the existing partnership and foster mutual understanding among participating navies.
Bull Strike (May 14, 2019)	Indian Army, Navy and Air Force	Teressa Island (Andaman & Nicobar)	It was conducted to showcase joint operations capability of the armed forces.
IN-VPN BILAT EX 2019 (April 13-16)	India and Vietnam	Cam Ranh Bay (Vietnam)	It was the second edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Vietnam People's Navy.

Papua New Guinea has Highest Number of 'Living' Languages

The Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea on August 9, 2019 designated by United Nation as a nation with highest number of 'living' indigenous languages in the world (840), followed by Indonesia with 742, Nigeria with 516 different indigenous language.

India stands fourth with 453. Interestingly, the USA (335 languages) and Australia (319), widely English-speaking nations, are among the countries where the highest number of languages are spoken; small and rapidly declining pockets of indigenous language speaking populations contribute to these numbers.

SpaceX Successfully Launches Israeli Amos-17 Satellite

SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket on August 8, 2019 launched and put Israel's Amos-17 communications satellite into space. Amos-17, which was manufactured by Boeing and will provide communication services to Africa, to help it rebound from some major setbacks, including the loss of a satellite in 2016 when a SpaceX rocket exploded.

The Netherlands Introduced 'Burqa Ban' in Public Place

A 'burqa ban' came into force in the Netherlands on August 3, 2019. The legislation applies to all face-covering clothing on public transport and in schools, hospitals and government buildings, according to a police statement. However, it does not apply to public streets.

India is the 7th Largest Economy in the World

India has slipped to the 7th position in the global GDP rankings in 2018, marginally behind the UK and France, according to World Bank data released on August 2, 2019. As per earlier data, India (\$ 2.597 trillion) was on the 6th position in 2017, ahead of just France (\$ 2.582 trillion). The latest data suggests India was in fact the fifth-largest economy ahead of even the UK. India was at \$ 2.65 trillion, while the UK's GDP was at \$ 2.64 trillion, followed by France at \$ 2.5 trillion in 2017.

Pakistan Opened Historic Hindu Temple in Sialkot

Pakistan has opened a 1000-year-old Hindu temple on July 29, 2019 in eastern city Sialkot for worship for the first time since partition on the demand of the local Hindu community. The Shawala Teja Singh temple, located in Dhaarawal locality, some 100-km from Lahore, is more than 1000 years old.

Israel and US successfully Test Arrow-3 Anti-Ballistic Missile

Israel successfully conducted a series of tests of the Arrow 3 missile defense system in Alaska, in cooperation with the American Missile Defense Agency (MDA) on July 29, 2019. This is the first time the Arrow 3 system managed to intercept a real missile, one that simulated a ballistic missile.

Sri Lanka Included India, China in Free Visa-on-Arrival Scheme

Sri Lanka on July 24, 2019 included India and China in the free visa-on-arrival scheme to revive the country's tourism sector. In April 2019, Sri Lanka suspended its plans to grant visas on arrival to citizens of 39 countries after the devastating Easter suicide bombings that killed 258 people.

Sri Lanka has re-launched the free visa on arrival scheme and has also expanded the service to tourists from India and China.

Global Innovation Index 2019

India has moved up five positions to become the 52nd most innovative country, according to the Global Innovation Index that was launched on July 24, 2019. India's rank has risen by 29 places since 2015, when it was at the 81st spot. The country's rank stood at 57 in 2018.

India's Position in Various Global Indices

Name (Released On)	India's Rank	Top-3 Nations	Issuer and Objective
Animal protection Index	2nd	1. UK, 2. New Zealand	International animal welfare charity released this index.
Global Gender Gap Index 2019 (December 17, 2019)	112th	1. Iceland, 2. Norway, 3. Finland	It was released by World Economic Forum (WEF).
End of Childhood Index 2019 (June 13, 2019)	113th (Unchanged)	1. Singapore, 2. Sweden, 3. Finland	It was released by 'Save the Children' under the Global Childhood Report 2019. It evaluates 176 countries on the well being of children.
Global Peace Index 2019 (June 11, 2019)	141st (Previously 137th)	1. Iceland, 2. New Zealand, 3. Portugal	Global think tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) released the 13th edition of the index, which ranks 163 countries according to their level of peacefulness.
SDR Gender Index 2019 (June 5, 2019)	95th	1. Denmark, 2. Finland, 3. Sweden	The index was released by UK-based organisation Equal Measures 2030 for the first time. It is the most comprehensive tool available to explore the state of gender equality across 129 countries.
World Competitiveness Ranking 2019 (May 29, 2019)	43rd (Previously 44th)	1. Singapore, 2. Hong Kong, 3. USA	It was released by International Institute for Management Development (IIMD) World Competitiveness Centre.
Kids Right Index 2019 (May 22, 2019)	117th	1. Iceland, 2. Portugal, 3. Switzerland	International Organisation 'Kids Rights' released the index, which ranks how countries adhere to and are equipped to improve child rights.

Jordan Unveiled Underwater Museum of Military Vehicles

Jordan has unveiled its first underwater military museum off the coast of Aqaba on July 24, 2019. At a ceremony the kingdom sank several military vehicles, including tanks, troop carriers and a helicopter. The vehicles, imitating a battle formation, have been stationed at a coral reef in the Red Sea.

19th SCO Summit in Bishkek

The 19th SCO Summit was held in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) on June 14-15, 2019. Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised the issue of state-sponsored terrorism at the Summit and said that countries sponsoring, aiding and funding terrorism must be held accountable as he called for a global conference to combat the menace.

New Non-Permanent Members in the UNSC

The UN General Assembly conducted a secret ballot and elected five non-permanent members (Estonia, Niger, Tunisia, Vietnam and Saint Vincent & the Grenadines) to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on June 7, 2019. These countries will replace Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Ivory Coast, Peru and Poland in January, 2020.

72nd Session of WHA

The 72nd Session of the WHO World Health Assembly (WHA) took place in Geneva (Switzerland) from May 20-28, 2019. The main function of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization.

East Container Terminal at Colombo Port

Sri Lanka, Japan and India on May 28, 2019 signed an agreement to jointly develop the East Container Terminal (ECT) at the Colombo Port. The ECT is located some 3 km away from the China-backed international financial city, known popularly as Port City.

Facebook's Cryptocurrency in 2020

Social media company Facebook has confirmed on May 24, 2019 that it'll launch its long-hyped **Libra** cryptocurrency in 2020. The cryptocurrency will have what will essentially be a pool of assets that will effectively back up every bit of Libra currency with something of actual value.

WESP Mid Year Update 2019

Economic Analysis and Policy Division of UN DESA released the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) Mid Year Update 2019 on May 21, 2019. According to the report, global growth outlook has weakened, amid unresolved trade tensions and elevated international policy uncertainty.

Forum on Global Influence of Asian Civilizations

As one of the six parallel forums of the Conference of Dialogue on Asian Civilizations, the Forum on Global Influence of Asian Civilizations was held in Beijing (China) on May 15, 2019. The theme of the forum was Asian Values for the World.

Asia University Ranking 2019

London-based Times Higher Education (THE) has released the list of Asia's top universities Asia University Ranking 2019 on May 13, 2019. According to the list, China's Tsinghua University is the top university in the Asian continent. Indian Institute of Science (IISc) held on to its 29th rank as a total of 49 Indian institutions.

New UN Accord to Curb Plastic Waste

Around 180 governments agreed on a new UN accord to regulate the export of plastic waste in Geneva (Switzerland) on May 10, 2019. The Geneva meeting amended the 1989 Basel Convention on the control of hazardous wastes to include plastic waste in a legally-binding framework.

Taiwan Legalised Same Sex Marriage

The Lawmakers in Taiwan have approved a bill legalizing same-sex marriage on May 10, 2019. It is a landmark decision that makes the self-ruled island the first place in Asia to pass gay marriage legislation. It came into effect on May 24, 2019.

New Imperial Era in Japan

Japan entered into a new imperial era, named as **Reiwa**, on May 1, 2019. Emperor Akihito abdicated on April 30, and his eldest son, Crown Prince Naruhito, become the 126th occupant of the Chrysanthemum Throne. Akihito was the fifth emperor since the Meiji Restoration of 1868.

ECONOMY & SCIENCE & TECH

Insolvency and Bankruptcy code (Amendment) Bill Passed

Parliament Passed in Insolvency and Bankruptcy. Code (Amendment) Bill 2020 on March 12, 2020. It was passed by Rajya Sabha on March 12, 2020 and was passed by Lok Sabha on March 6, 2020.

The amendments were earlier introduced as ordinances. The amendment aims to protect the successful bidders of insolvent companies from risk of criminal proceedings.

Government Launched e-Bkray for Online Auction of Assets

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on December 28, 2019 launched eBkray, an e-auction platform to enable online auction of attached assets by banks.

The eBkray platform provides navigational links to all PSB e-auction sites, property search feature and presents single-window access to information on properties up for e-auction, comparison of similar properties, and also contains videos and photographs of the uploaded properties.

IBAPI Portal

Indian Banks Auctions Mortgaged Properties Information (IBAPI) portal is an initiative of Indian Banks Association (IBA) under the policy of the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, to provide details of mortgaged properties to be auctioned online by banks, starting with PSBs.

RBI Introduced New Prepaid Payment Instrument

The Reserve Bank of India on December 25, 2019 has introduced a new type of prepaid payment instrument (PPI) which could be used only for purchase of goods and services up to a limit of ₹ 10000 per month.

As per the circular, such PPIs shall be issued by bank and non-bank 'PPI Issuers' after obtaining minimum details of the holder.

The amount loaded in such PPIs during any month shall not exceed ₹ 10000 and the total amount loaded during the financial year shall not exceed ₹ 120000.

The purpose of RBI's new type of semi-closed PPI is to give impetus to small value digital payments and for enhanced user experience.

What is PPI?

- The PPIs are financial instruments that facilitate the purchase of goods and services against the value stored on such instruments.
- Some of the prominent PPIs include Paytm, Mobikwik (semi-closed system PPIs), Gift card (closed system PPIs), and Travel/Debit/credit cards (open system PPIs).

Bharat Bond ETF Subscribed Nearly 2 Times

Bharat Bond ETF, a government instrument to tap retail money, has obtained more than ₹ 12000 crore worth of subscriptions, people tracking the issue said, as the investment window closed on December 21, 2019.

The largest debt fund offer in India was subscribed 1.71 times, with local individual investors and non-resident Indians pouring in money. The ETF will invest in a basket of triple-A-rated government-owned companies.

About Bharat Bond ETF

- In a move aimed at strengthening the corporate bond market and reducing the cost of borrowing, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister, approved the creation of Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) in early December, 2019.
- A basket of bonds issued by public-sector companies or any government organisation, Bharat Bond ETF will be tradable on the stock exchange. The fund is managed by Edelweiss.
- The unit size of these bonds, of ₹ 1000, will allow small investors to put their money with a fixed maturity date.
- As of now, the bond will have two maturity series—3 years and 10 years, with each series having a separate index of the same maturity series.

Fiat Chrysler and Peugeot Signed Merger Deal

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and Peugeot SA have signed a binding Combination Agreement providing for a 50/50 merger of their businesses. This merger creates the 4th

largest global automotive company by volume and 3rd largest by revenue.

The combined company will have annual unit sales of 8.7 million vehicles, with revenues of nearly 170 billion Euros, recurring operating profit of over 11 billion Euros and an operating profit margin of 6.6%.

The new Group will have much greater geographic balance with 46% of revenues derived from Europe and 43% from North America, based on aggregated 2018 figures of each company.

Intel Bought Israeli AI chip Startup Habana for \$ 2 billion

Intel Corp has bought Israel-based artificial intelligence (AI) firm Habana Labs for about \$ 2 billion, seeking to expand its AI portfolio to bolster its data-center business. Intel expects the fast-growing AI chip market in the world to exceed \$ 25 billion by 2024.

Habana, an AI processor firm, was founded in 2016 and has offices in Tel Aviv, San Jose, Beijing and Gdansk, Poland. It has raised \$ 120 million to date, including \$ 75 million in a funding round led by Intel Capital last year.

Habana Labs will continue to be based in Israel and its Chairman Avigdor Willenz will serve as a senior adviser to Intel. The deal follows a string of AI-related acquisitions by Intel in recent years, including Movidius, Nervana, Altera and Mobileye.

ADB to Provide \$ 250 Million to India for Energy Efficiency Investments

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$ 250 million loan to Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) to expand energy efficiency investments in India that will benefit agricultural, residential and institutional consumers.

In addition, \$ 46 million financing will be provided from the Clean Technology Fund (CTF), to be administered by ADB.

ADB previously approved a \$ 200 million loan to EESL, a public sector energy service company, in 2016 for Demand Side Energy Efficiency Sector Project that focused on efficient lighting and appliances.

The loan signing that the project is expected to contribute to the mission of Government of India to promote energy efficiency and meet Government's commitments to reduce energy intensity of the economy.

Moreover introduction of energy-efficient technologies in eligible states including smart meters, distributed solar photovoltaic systems and electric vehicles will help reduce electricity network losses and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Inaugural Session of 100 Years of ASSOCHAM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the annual general meeting of Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) in New Delhi on December 20, 2019. The event was organised on the completion of 100 years of ASSOCHAM with the theme 'New India Aspiring for a USD 5 trillion economy'.

ADB Cut India Growth Forecast to 5.1% for Fiscal Year 2019

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has lowered its growth forecasts for developing Asia this year and the next, as a weaker outlook for China and India. The Manila-based lender lowered its forecast for India - South Asia's largest economy to 5.1% and 6.5% for fiscal years 2019 and 2020 due to liquidity strains on its non-banking finance companies and slow job growth.

It cut its growth estimates for China for this year and the next to 6.1% and 5.8%, respectively, due to the US-China trade tensions and as higher prices of pork cut into consumer spending.

Southeast Asia's growth this year is expected to be slightly lower than previously expected, as trade reliant economies like Singapore and Thailand are hit hard by the trade war and broader global slowdown.

Wal-Mart, Flipkart Jointly Invested in Ninjacart Startup

Wal-Mart and its Indian arm Flipkart jointly invested in fresh produce supply chain startup Ninjacart, to modernise fresh produce market to benefit consumers, retailers and farmers. With the new agreement, Wal-Mart, Flipkart and Ninjacart aim to offer better access of high quality fresh produce to more retailers and consumers in the country even as they economically empower farmers. Ninjacart offers business to business (B2B) supply chain infrastructure and technology solutions with traceability feature.

Infosys Projected as Top Employer in Asia Pacific Region

Software major Infosys has been projected as a top employer in Australia, Japan and Singapore across the Asia-Pacific region in 2020, by the Top Employer Institute in recognition of its excellence in hiring practices.

Ranking Process

- Top Employer Institute has certified and recognised more than 1500 employers in 118 countries. Established 28 years ago, Top Employer Institute recognises excellence in people practices.
- Leadership development, career and succession management, compensation and benefits and culture also were part of the evaluated topics in certifying the \$ 11 billion IT company.

Vistara Signed Codeshare Agreement with Lufthansa

India's Vistara Airlines signed a codeshare agreement with German airline Lufthansa to expand and enabling frequent fliers to earn miles/points on travel on their networks. Vistara is a joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines.

What is Codeshare Agreement?

- A code-share agreement is an arrangement where two or more airlines share the same flight.
- A seat can be purchased from an airline on a flight that is actually operated by another airline under a different flight number or code.
- As part of the codeshare agreement, Lufthansa will add its designator code, 'LH', on nearly 18 flights operated by Vistara daily.
- Lufthansa currently operates 56 weekly international flights to and from Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai.

SPORTS AND GAMES

CRICKET

Ranji Trophy 2020

The Ranji Trophy 2019-20 Final ended in drawn on 11th march, 2020, but Saurashtra by gaining a first inning lead, over Bengal was declared as the Ranji Trophy Champions. This is saurashtra's maiden Ranji Trophy title.

ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2020

13th edition of 2020 ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup, an international limited-overs cricket tournament was held in South Africa from January 17 – February 9, 2020.

Bangladesh team won the under-19 World Cup title for the first time after defeating India by 3 wickets in the final match at Potchefstroom, South Africa.

India–New Zealand T20I Series 2020

The Indian men's cricket team Played 5 T20I series against New Zealand as part of the India Tour of New Zealand 2020 from January 24-February 2, 2020 in New Zealand.

India beat New Zealand by 7 runs to win the five-match series by 5-0. KL Rahul was named Player of the Series.

India Beat West Indies, Clinched Series 2-1

With the excellent knock from Virat Kohli, India defeated West Indies by four wickets in the third and final ODI of the three-match series on December 22, 2019 at Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Odisha. It was India's tenth consecutive series win over the West Indies. Skipper Kohli who scored 85, declared Man of the Match while Rohit Sharma declared Man of the Series. Rohit Sharma had also broken the record for scoring the most number of runs as an opening batsman in a calendar year of former Sri Lanka's batsman Sanath Jayasuriya.

India Beat West Indies Clinched T20 Series

India beat West Indies by 67 runs to clinch T20 series by 2-1 at Wankhede Stadium at Mumbai. Indian bowlers restricted the visitors to just 173/8 in 20 overs. Virat Kohli adjudged as Man of the Series for his unbeaten 70 off 29 deliveries.

Both Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli finished at the joint top spot on the all-time T20 runs chart after their final innings of 2633 runs. 240/3 was third highest total for India in all T20s. 260/5 v/s Sri Lanka in Indore (2017) and 244/4 v/s West Indies in Lauderhill (2016) are the only higher totals by India in T20s. With 1064 runs, Virat Kohli has now joined Martin Gupthill (1430) and Colin Munro (1000) as the only batsmen to have scored 1000+ runs in T20s at home.

Vijay Hazare Trophy 2019-20

The 18th season of the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2019-20 was took place in September and October 2019. Karnataka won its fourth title by 60 runs after beating Tamil Nadu. Karnataka's Devdutt Padikkal scored the most runs (609) while the most wickets by taken by Assam's Pritam Das and Madhya Pradesh's Gaurav Yadav (23 veach).

India-South Africa Test Series

India beat South Africa by an innings and 202 runs in the third and final test to complete a 3-0 series sweep in Ranchi on October 22, 2019.

Rohit Sharma was named as the player of the series. The Test series formed part of the inaugural 2019-21 ICC World Test Championship.

India-South Africa Women ODI Series 2019

Indian Women's Cricket team won the One Day International (ODI) Series 2019 against South Africa by 3-0 in Gujarat on October 14,

2019. Ekta Bisht was named as player of the match with three wickets.

South Africa-India T20 Series

South Africa beat India in the third T20 and won the match by nine wickets to level the series 1-1 in Bengaluru on September 22, 2019. Quinton de Kock was the 'Player of the Series' while Beuran Hendricks was the 'Man of the Match'.

ACC U-19 Asia Cup 2019

India won the ACC U-19 Asia Cup 2019 after beating Bangladesh by five runs at the RPS stadium in Colombo on September 14, 2019. India had scored 106 runs in 32.4 overs while Bangladesh was all out at 33 overs after scoring 101 runs.

Duleep Trophy 2019

India Red won the Duleep Trophy 2019 after defeating India Green by an innings and 38 runs in Bengaluru on September 7, 2019. Maharashtra's Akshay Wakhare (India Red) took a 5 wicket haul leading to the team's victory. Abhimanyu Easwaran (India Red) was awarded 'Player of the Match'.

Physical Disability World Series T20

India defeated home team England by 36 runs in the final of the T20 Physical Disability World Cricket Series on August 15, 2019, organised by England and Wales Cricket Board.

The visitor scored 180-7 in 20 overs after skipper Vikrant Keni won the toss and then restricted England to 144-8 in 20 overs, to seal the title.

U-19 Tri-Series Title

India U-19 players produced a solid batting effort to comfortably beat Bangladesh by six wickets and clinch the U-19 Tri-Series title on August 12, 2019.

Chasing a competitive 262, India U-19 rode on half-centuries from openers Yashasvi Jaiswal (50), Divyansh Saxena (55) and skipper Priyam Garg (73) to reach home with consummate ease, scoring 264 for four in 48.4 overs.

FOOTBALL

SAFF U-15 Women's Championship 2019

Indian U-15 football team clinched the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship 2019 title for the second time after defeating Bangladesh U-15s in the final in Thimpu, Bhutan on Oct. 15, 2019.

The 3rd edition of the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship 2019 is an international football competition for women's under-15 national teams, organized by SAFF.

SAFF U-18 Football Championship

Indian U-18 football team clinched the SAFF U-18 Championship title for the first time after defeating Bangladesh U-18 in the final in Kathmandu, Nepal on Sept. 29, 2019. India's Ninthoinganba Meetei was declared 'Most Valuable Player' of the championship. This is India's maiden SAFF U-18 trophy while India remained runners up in 2015 and finished third in 2017.

Durand Cup 2019

Captain Marcus Joseph's brilliant brace propelled Gokulam Kerala FC to register a thrilling 2-1 win over Mohun Bagan and lift its maiden Durand Cup title at the Salt Lake Stadium on August 24, 2019. Gokulam Kerala has become second football club of Kerala to win the title after 22 years.

Wrestling

World Wrestling Championships

The World Wrestling Championships 2019 was held from September 14-22, 2019 in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

Russia topped the medal tally with 19 medals while India won total 5 medals and ranked 17th in the list.

Category	Winner
Men's 86kg freestyle	Deepak Punia (Silver)
Men's 65 kg freestyle	Bajrang Punia (Bronze)
Men's 61kg freestyle	Rahul Aware (Bronze)
Men's 57 kg freestyle	Ravi Kumar Dahiya (Bronze)
Women's 53 kg freestyle	Vinesh Phogat (Bronze)

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.

National Championship 2019

Commonwealth Games champions Manu Bhaker and Anish Bhanwala swept the senior and junior gold medals in the women's 10 m air pistol and men's 25 m rapid fire pistol events at the National Shooting Championships on December 24, 2019 at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).

The 17-year-old Bhaker, representing Haryana, clinched four gold medals (individual and team events in senior and junior) and also equaled the qualification national record.

Her state-mate Anish won both the individual and team gold medals in the senior and junior men's categories of his event to stamp his dominance.

Devanshi Dhama bagged the silver in the senior women's 10 meter air pistol event while Yashaswini Singh Deswal won the bronze medal in the same event.

ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol 2019

International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol 2019 event was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from August 26 to September 3, 2019.

Event	Winner
Men's 10 m Air Pistol	Abhishek Verma (Gold)
Women's 10 m Air Pistol	Yashaswini Singh Deswal (Gold)
Women's 10 m Air Rifle	Elavenil Valarivan(Gold)
Mixed 10 m Air Pistol	Manu Bhaker & Saurabh Chaudhary (Gold)
Mixed 10M Air Rifle	Apurvi Chandela & Deepak Kumar (Gold)

TENNIS

Australian Open 2020

A Grand Slam tennis tournament, Australian Open 2020 was held from January 20 to February 2, 2020 in Melbourne, Australia.

Category	Winner
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
Women's Singles	Sofia Kenin (US)

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 Dec. 20, 2019.

Category	Winner
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain)
Women's Singles	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)

World Deaf Championship 2019

The 2nd edition of World Deaf Tennis Championships 2019 was held from October 12-19, 2019 in Antalya, Turkey. Indian Prithvi Sekhar defeated third seed Jaroslav Smedek of the Czech Republic and clinched the men's singles title.

Rakuten Japan Open 2019

The 46th edition of the 2019 Japan Rakuten Open Tennis Championships was held from September 30 - October 6, 2019 in Tokyo, Japan. Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic defeated Australia's John Millman to win the first Japan Open Singles title. It was his 10th win in a tournament main draw debut.

ATP Challenger Buenos Aires

The 9th edition of Challenger Buenos Aires 2019 Tennis tournament was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from September 23-29, 2019. Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal defeated Facundo Bagnis of Argentina and became the first Asian to clinch the ATP Challenger men's singles title.

US Open 2019

The 139th edition of US Open 2019 tennis tournament was held from August 26 to September 8, 2019 in New York City.

Category	Champion	Runner-Up
Men's singles	Rafael Nadal	Daniil Medvedev
Women's singles	Bianca Andreescu (First Canadian woman to win a Grand Slam singles title)	Serena Williams

36th Toray Pan Pacific Open 2019

The 36th edition of Toray Pan Pacific Open 2019, a professional women's tennis tournament was held for the first time in Osaka, Japan from September 16-22, 2019. Japanese tennis player Naomi Osaka won the women's singles title by defeating Kiki Bertens of Netherlands.

Citi Open 2019

Home favourite Jessica Pegula made quick work of Italy's Camila Giorgi to win her maiden WTA title at the Citi Open in Washington on August 4, 2019. The 25-year-old American breezed to a win over the outplayed Italian in just 59 minutes. She is the first American to win the women's tournament since Sloane Stephens in 2015.

CHESS

Cairns Cup Chess Tournament 2020

India's woman chess Grand Master Koneru Humpy won the Cairns Cup chess tournament 2020 held at St. Louis, US on February 16, 2020. She won the championship following a draw against fellow grandmaster Dronavalli Harika in the ninth and final round, to finish the tournament with 6 points.

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 GA Stany.

95th Hastings International Chess Congress

India's P Magesh Chandran lifted the title in the 95th edition of the prestigious Hastings International Chess Congress on January 6, 2020 at Hastings in England. The 36-year old Grand Master with a FIDE rating of 2479, finished in clear first place with 7.5 points from nine games after securing a 33-move draw in the final round against compatriot GA Stany, also a Grand Master.

France's Romain Edouard, who was the only player to end the tournament a half-point

behind Chandran, took the second spot. Four players shared third to sixth places with 6.5 points.

India's woman GM R. Vaishali obtained six points to finish 10th. Two other Indians Deep Sengupta finished 13th and Swayam Mishra 14th with identical six points.

Blitz Competition 2019

Magnus Carlsen (Norway) and Kateryna Lagno (Russia) became the winners of the world blitz championships on December 31, 2019 in Moscow. As in 2014, Carlsen scored the 'double,' as he also won the world rapid title.

He won the tournament by winning a playoff against Hikaru Nakamura, who had also finished on the excellent score of 16.5/21.

He holds all three titles in chess again—standard, rapid and blitz—and on the new list he will be world number one in the FIDE ratings in all three categories.

Indian Grandmaster Koneru Humpy finished 12th overall and ended the tournament with 10.5 points out of 17 games.

FIDE World Grand Prix 2019

Indian chess player Humpy Koneru won the FIDE's 2019 Women's World Grand Prix 2019 in Skolkovo, Russia on September 22, 2019. She has clinched the title with 8 points from 11 rounds after defeating Women's World Champion Ju Wenjun of China.

46th National Women Championship

Defending champion Bhakti Kulkarni of Air India completed a dominant performance to finish with 10 points from 11 rounds to retain the National Women Chess Championship title on July 27, 2019. She was held to a draw in the final round by Pratyusha Bodda of Andhra Pradesh, a Woman International Master.

BADMINTON

Asia Team Championships 2020

The 2020 Badminton Asia Team Championships was held at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum in Manila, Philippines, from February 11-16, 2020. Indian men's team clinched bronze medal at the championships after losing to two-time defending champions Indonesia with 2-3 scores in semi-finals.

Premier Badminton League 2020

The Premier Badminton League (PBL) 2020 tournament was held at the GMC Balayogi SATS Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad, Telangana from January 20 to February 9, 2020. Bengaluru Raptors, led by B. SaiPraneeth and Tai Tzu Ying has defeated the mixed doubles pair -Chan Peng Soon and EomHye Won of North Eastern Warriors and clinched the PBL title 2020 for the 2nd time.

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)

MM Luwang Won Bangladesh Junior International Series

India's shuttler Maisnam Meiraba Luwang has won the Men's singles Bangladesh Junior International Badminton Series on December 22, 2019 in Dhaka. Top-seeded Meiraba, who hails from Manipur, beat Ken Yong Ong of Singapore 21, 14, 21-18 in the final.

Meiraba had also clinched the boys' singles U-19 title at the Woncheon Yonex Korea Junior Open International Challenge earlier.

In women's singles, Indian shuttler Treesa Jolly lost to Thailand's third seed Krittaporn Jiantanet 21-12, 16-21, 21-16 in finals.

Kento Momota won BWF World Tour Finals

World number one Kento Momota fought back from a game down to win a record 11th title of the year with victory at the BWF World Tour Finals.

The peerless Japanese player defeated Indonesia's Anthony Ginting 17-21, 21-17, 21-14 at the season-ending showpiece in Guangzhou.

Kento Momota has cleaned up in men's badminton over the past 12 months, winning a record 11 titles including the World Championships, Asia Championships and All England Open.

Momota celebrates a new mark in men's badminton, overtaking Malaysian great Lee Chong Wei's 10 tournament wins in 2010. The left-handed Momota has played 73 matches this year, losing just six times

Lakshya Sen claimed BIC Title

Fast-rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen won his fifth title of the season, claiming the men's singles crown at the Bangladesh International Challenger (BIC) with a straight game win over Malaysia's Leong Jun Hao in the final.

The 18-year-old Indian has capped a superb year with a 22-20, 21-18 win over Hao in the summit clash to clinch his fifth title in last seven tournaments.

The young Indian shuttler won his first title of the year at the Belgian International in September and followed it up with wins at Dutch Open Super 100 and SarrLorLux Super 100 in October before claiming the Scottish Open crown in November.

Danisa Denmark Open 2019

The 2019 Danisa Denmark Open badminton competition was held at Odense Sports Park in Odense, Denmark from October 15-20, 2019.

Category	Winner
Men's Singles	Kento Momota (Japan)
Women's Singles	Tai Tzu-ying (Taiwan)

YONEX Dutch Open 2019

The 9th edition of YONEX Dutch Open 2019 was held in Almere, Netherlands from October 8-13, 2019.

Category	Winner
Men's Singles	Lakshya Sen (India)
Women's Singles	Wang Zhiyi (China)

Korea Open 2019

The Korea Open 2019 was held at Incheon International Airport Skydome in Incheon, South Korea from September 24-29, 2019.

Category	Winner
Men's Singles	Kento Momota (Japan)
Women's Singles	He Bingjiao (China)

WRESTLING

Asian Championship 2020

The 2020 Asian Wrestling Championships was held at the KD Jadhav Indoor Stadium in Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi from February 18-23, 2020. Japan topped the medal tally with 16 medals (8 Gold, 4 Silver, 4 Bronze), while India finished 3rd rank with 20 medals (5 Gold, 6 Silver, 9 Bronze).

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

ESPN Multi-Sport Annual Awards

Indian shuttler PV Sindhu and shooter Saurabh Chaudhary bagged the female and male sportsperson of the year in the ESPN India Annual Multi-Sport Awards on February 21, 2020.

Award Category	Winner's Name	Sport
Lifetime Achievement Award	Balbir Singh Senior	Hockey
Comeback of the year	Koneru Humpy	Chess
Emerging Sportsperson of the Year	Deepak Punia	Wrestling
Team of the Year	Manu Bhaker – Saurabh Chaudhary	Shooting

Filmfare Awards 2020

The 65th edition of Filmfare Awards 2020 took place on February 15, 2020 in Guwahati, Assam. Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt bagged the Best Actor and Best Actress trophy for their performance in the Gully Boy. Gully Boy won the Best Film while Zoya Akhtar awarded the Best Director for the Gully Boy.

Dan David Prize 2020

Indian feminist scholar, activist Gita Sen and Prof. Debora Ding has won the prestigious Dan David Prize 2020 under 'present' category on February 13, 2020. She has been awarded for her work in the fields of population policies, reproductive and sexual health, women's rights, poverty, labour markets and global governance.

92nd Academy Awards

The 92nd Academy Awards ceremony (commonly referred to as Oscars) took place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California on February 9, 2020. South Korea's Parasite won the most awards in total with four, while 1917 won three awards. Renée Zellweger won the Oscar for Best Actress for Judy, while Joaquin Phoenix won Best Actor for Joker.

73rd British Academy Film Awards

The 73rd British Academy Film Awards, commonly known as the BAFTAs, were held

on February 2, 2020 at the Royal Albert Hall in London, honouring the best national and foreign films of 2019. Joaquin Phoenix won the Best Actor in the Leading Role for Joker while Renée Zellweger won the Best Actress in the Leading Role for Judy. Sam Mendes' war drama 1917 won seven awards of its nine nominations including best film.

2019 PEN Gauri Lankesh Award for Democratic Idealism

Senior journalist from Jammu and Kashmir Yusuf Jameel has been selected for the 2019-2020 PEN Gauri Lankesh Award for Democratic Idealism for his outstanding contribution in journalism on January 29, 2020.

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.

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.

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.

Jasprit 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.

NATIONAL

Antarrashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman

Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar on January 7, 2020 conferred the first Antarrashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman to 30 media houses in New Delhi. The Ministry had instituted the award in June last year to mark the contribution of media in spreading the message of Yoga. It acknowledged the positive role and responsibility of the media in disseminating the outreach of Yoga in India and abroad. Eleven awards were conferred under the category of Best Media Coverage of Yoga in Newspapers. Eight awards under the category Best Media Coverage of Yoga in Television and 11 awards were conferred under the category Best Media Coverage of Yoga in Radio.

PM Distributed Krishi Karman Awards

Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed Agriculture Minister's Krishi Karman Awards for Progressive Farmers and Commendation Awards to the states at a public meeting in Tumkur, Karnataka January 2, 2020.

He also released the 3rd installment of PM Kisan (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) of ₹ 2000 for the period December, 2019 - March, 2020. This will benefit approximately 6 crore beneficiaries and distributed Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) to select farmers of Karnataka.

Prime Minister handed over the Certificates to beneficiaries under PM Kisan from 8 States / UTs. Prime Minister also handed over the keys of Deep Sea fishing Vessels and Fishing Vessel Transponders to select farmers of Tamil Nadu.

Keeping in view the nutritional security of the country, PM requested to create a new category in the Krishi Karman Award, for Nutri Cereals, Horticulture and Organic Agriculture. This will give impetus to people and states doing better work in these areas

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2019

The Sahitya Akademi on December 18, 2019 announced its annual literary awards for 2019 for work in 23 Indian languages.

Congress leader and MP from Kerala Shashi Tharwar honoured for his book in English named An Era of Darkness. The award including ₹ 1 lakh in cash, would be presented to the author at a ceremony on February 25, 2020.

66th National Film Awards

The 66th National Film Awards 2019 were presented on December 23, 2019 by Vice-President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi. Uttarakhand bagged an award for the film friendly state; new award instituted in 2019.

Category	Award
Best Actor	Vicky Kaushal (Uri: The Surgical Strike), Ayushmann Khurrana (Andhadhun)
Best Actress	Keerthy Suresh (Mahanati)
Best Director	Aditya Dhar (Uri: The Surgical Strike)
Best Music	Sanjay Leela Bhansali (Padmavat)
Best Hindi movie	Andhadhun

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.

28th Saraswati Samman

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has presented the 28th Saraswati Samman 2018 to Telugu poet Dr. K. Siva Reddy on September 28, 2019. He was awarded for his famous poetry collection 'Pakkaki Ottigilite' (Turning aside while lying down).

Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2019

Amitabh Bachchan received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2019, India's highest film honour as announced by Ministry of I & B on September 24, 2019.

APJ Abdul Kalam Award

In recognition of his stellar work in promotion of science and technology, Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman K. Sivan was on August 17, 2019 awarded the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Award by the Tamil Nadu government.

Gallantry Awards 2019

President Ram Nath Kovind, who is also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, has approved 132 Awards to Armed Forces Personnel and members of Paramilitary Forces on August 14, 2019.

Miss India 2019

20-year-old Suman Rao from Rajasthan crowned 56th Miss India 2019 during the finale of the Miss India Pageant 2019, which held in Mumbai on June 15, 2019. She will now represent India at the Miss World 2019 pageant to be held in Pattaya (Thailand) on Dec 7, 2019.

54th Jnanpith Award

India's leading contemporary English writer Amitav Ghosh received the 54th Jnanpith award 2018 from former Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi in New Delhi on June 12, 2019. He is the first Indian writer in English to have been chosen for the prestigious award.

Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2019

Sahitya Akademi has selected 23 writers for the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2019 on June 14, 2019.

The winners included Yuvraj Bhattarai (Sanskrit), Keerti Parihar (Rajasthan), Sabarinathan (Tamil), Salman Abdus Samad (Urdu), etc.

Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2019

Sahitya Akademi Chairman Dr. Chandrashekar Kambar announced the winners of Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2019 in Agartala (Tripura) on June 14, 2019. The winner included Govind Sharma (Hindi), Devika Cariapa (English), Sanjay Chaubey (Sanskrit), Mohammed Khalil (Urdu), Kumarpal Desai (Gujarati), Salim Sardar Mulla (Marathi) and 16 other writers.

Bihari Puraskar 2018

KK Foundation on May 16, 2019 announced the winner of 28th Bihari Puraskar. Author Manisha Kulshreshtha will receive the award for her Hindi novel, Swapnapaash. It is given every year to an outstanding work in Hindi/Rajasthani published in the last 10 years.

28th Vyas Samman 2018

Hindi writer Leeladhar Jagudi has been selected for 28th Vyas Samman for 2018 by KK Birla Foundation on March 14, 2019. He has been selected for his collection of poems 'Jitne Log Utne Prem'.

INTERNATIONAL

Muhyiddin Yassin

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)

Golden Globe Awards 2020

The 77th Golden Globe Awards, honoring the best in film and American television of 2019, were broadcast live from The Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California on January 5, 2020, by NBC.

Once Upon a Time in Hollywood won the most awards for the ceremony with three, 1917, Joker, and Rocketman won two awards each. In television, Succession, Fleabag, and Chernobyl were the most awarded, with two awards each.

Important List of Winners

Best Motion Picture	1917
Best Actress-Drama	Renée Zellweger, Judy
Best Actor-Drama	Joaquin Phoenix, Joker
Best Motion Picture Musical or Comedy	Once Upon a Time in Hollywood
Best Television Series	Chernobyl
Best Director-Motion Picture	Sam Mendes, 1917
Best Motion Picture-Foreign Language	Parasite

DSC Award 2019

Amitabha Bagchi wins 2019 DSC prize for South Asian Literature on December 17, 2019. His novel 'Half The Night is Gone' was short listed and won this prestigious award. Bagchi got \$ 25000 cash prize with a trophy.

Miss Universe 2019

Miss universe 2019 pageant was held on December 8, 2019 in Atlanta, Georgia (USA). Zozibini Tunzi (South Africa) crowned by Catriona Grag (The Philippines). The Miss Universe 2018, Zozibini Tunzi is the third Miss Universe from South Africa.

Miss World 2019

Miss World 2019 pageant was held on December 14, 2019 in London (UK) Toni Ann Singh (Jamaica) wins the title of Miss World 2019. Venessa Ponce (Mexico) Miss World 2018 (crowned Toni Ann Singh. Toni Ann Singh is the fourth Jamaican crowned this title. She is the first Jamaican since 1993.

Booker Prize 2019

Canadian author Margaret Atwood received the award for her book 'The Testaments' and Anglo-Nigerian author Bernardine Evaristo for her novel 'Girl, Women, Other' on October 15, 2019. Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo have become the first authors to jointly win the Booker Prize for Fiction since 1992.

Nobel Prize 2019

2019 Nobel prizes given to all winners on December 2019. *Here is list of Winners*

Medicine	William kaeling Gregg Semenzag
Chemistry	John B. Goodenough, Stanley, Whittingham, Akira Yoshino
Physics	James Peebles, Michel Mayor, Didier Queloz
Literature	Olga Tokarczuk (2018) Peter Handke (2019)
Peace	Abiy Ahmed (Ethiopia)
Economics	Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo Michael Kremer.

International Children's Peace Prize 2019

The Kids Rights Foundation will felicitate Sweden's Climate activist Greta Thunberg and Peace Campaigner Cameroon's Divina Maloum with the 15th International Children's Peace Prize 2019 on November 20, 2019 in Netherlands. The prize is an initiative of Marc Dullaert, founder of the KidsRights Foundation, an international children's aid and advocacy organisation based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Right Livelihood Award 2019

16 year old Greta Thunberg will be awarded Sweden's alternative Nobel Prize, the Right Livelihood Award for her climate activism. Brazilian leader Davi Kopenawa of the Yanomami people, Chinese women's rights lawyer Guo Jianmei and Western Sahara human rights defender Aminatou Haidar will also be awarded.

Global Goals Changemaker Award 2019

17-year-old Payal Jangid from Rajasthan became the first Indian to receive the Changemaker Award by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation at the Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards held in New York on September 25, 2019. She has been conferred with the award for her work towards the abolition of child marriage in her village, Hinsla.

Ramon Magsaysay Award 2019

Indian journalist **Ravish Kumar** has been awarded the 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award for 'harnessing journalism to give voice to the voiceless' on August 3, 2019. The other winners of the award are :

- Myanmar's Ko Swe Win- Journalist
- Thailand's Angkhana Neelapajit- Human Rights Activist
- Philippines' Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab-Musician
- South Korea's Kim Jong-Ki- Activist working with violence and mental health issues in youth.

Ambassador Conscience Award 2019

Climate activist **Greta Thunberg** and **Fridays for Future** movement of school children have been given Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience Award for 2019, on June 7, 2019.

BBC World Service Global Champion Award 2019

The Bengaluru-based NGO **Akshaya Patra** has been awarded the BBC World Service Global Champion Award 2019 in Bristol (London) on June 10, 2019.

The award recognises a project or person who is changing the way the world produces, processes, consumes or thinks about food for the better.

Rule of Nishan Izzuddin

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with Maldives' highest award 'Rule of Nishan Izzuddin' on June 8, 2019. PM Modi received the honour during his recent Maldives tour.

Order of Aztec Eagle

Former Indian President Pratibha Patil has been conferred with order Mexicana del Agnila Azteca (Order of the Aztec Eagle) on June 1, 2019. It is the highest civilian award of Mexico given to foreigners.

Nine Dots Prize 2019

Indian writer Annie Zaidi was announced as the 2019 winner of \$ 100000 Nine Dots Prize on May 29, 2019. It is an award for

creating thinking that tackles contemporary social issues. She won the prize for her entry titled 'Bread, Cement, Cactus'.

Joan Miro Prize 2019

Indian artist Nalini Malani has been chosen the winner of the 7th edition of one of the highly coveted arts awards in the world 'the Joan Miro Prize'.

The award was conferred to her at an award ceremony held in Barcelona (Spain) on May 23, 2019.

Man Booker International Prize 2019

Omani author Jokha Al Harthi won the prestigious Man Booker International Prize 2019 for her novel 'Celestial Bodies', on May 21, 2019. She is the first Arabic-language writer who won the prize.

Sasakawa Award 2019

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) on May 16, 2019 honoured Dr. Pramod Kumar Mishra (India), Bijal Brahmabhatt (India) and Sidnei Furtado (Brazil) with the Sasakawa Award 2019 for Disaster Risk Reduction.

CEAT Cricket Awards 2019

Annual CEAT Cricket Awards 2019 were given in Mumbai on May 13, 2019. Virat Kohli received 'International Cricketer and Batsman of the year' award, while Smriti Mandhana got 'International Woman Cricketer of the year' award.

Goldman Environmental Prize 2019

The Goldman Environmental Foundation announced six recipients of the Goldman Environmental Prize 2019 on April 29, 2019.

The recipients are Alfred Brownell (Liberia), Bayara Agvaantseren (Mongolia), Ana Colovic Lesoska (North Macedonia), Jacqueline Evans (Cook Islands), Linda Garcia (USA) and Alberto Curamil (Chile).

UNESCO Press Freedom Prize 2019

Reuters reporters Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo has been awarded the UNESCO/ Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize 2019 on April 16, 2019. They are recognised for their exceptional courage in reporting on alleged human rights violations in the Myanmar's State of Rakhine.

World Press Photo of the Year 2019

The largest photojournalism competition the World Press Photo 2019 unveiled the winners of the 62nd edition on April 15, 2019.

The photo- graph named Crying Girl on the Border of John Moore has been adjudged as the 'World Press Photo of the Year'.

Bodley Medal

Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen has been awarded the prestigious Bodley Medal on March 30, 2019. It is the highest honour bestowed by the University of Oxford's Bodleian Libraries.

PERSONS IN NEWS**NATIONAL****Nritya Gopal Das**

Mahant Nritya Gopal Das was elected as the President of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra Trust on February 20, 2020. The trust was constituted by the government after a Supreme Court verdict on Ayodhya land dispute case in November 2019.

Arvind Kejriwal

Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal took oath as the chief minister of Delhi for the third time at the Ramlila Maidan on February 16, 2020. He became the youngest (45 years) chief minister of Delhi when he was sworn for the first time in December 2013.

Rajendra Kumar Pachauri

Rajendra Kumar Pachauri, former Chairman and Director General of The Energy Resources Institute (TERI), has passed away at the age of 79 in New Delhi, on Feb. 14, 2020.

Rajiv Bansal

The government has appointed senior IAS officer Rajiv Bansal as the chairman and managing director of Air India on February 13, 2020. He succeeded Ashwani Lohani, who didn't agree to extend his 1 year contract, which expired on February 11, 2020.

Pramod Agrawal

Pramod Agrawal took over charge as the new chairman and managing director of Coal India Ltd., on February 1, 2020. He took over after AK Jha retired as the CIL chairman on January 31.

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 been 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.

Arun Kumar

Arun Kumar Shukla on January 1, 2019 took charge as the Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Copper. A mining engineer graduate of 1985 batch from Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, and M. Tech in Environmental Engineering, Mr. Shukla has a vast experience in the mining industry.

Arun Kumar Sinha

Senior IPS officer Arun Kumar Sinha was on December 31, 2019 given over one-year extension as the Director of Special Protection Group (SPG), mandated to guard the prime minister and former PMs. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved extension in deputation tenure of Mr. Sinha from March 19, 2020 to July 30, 2021.

Mr. Sinha, a 1987 batch IPS officer of Kerala cadre, has been working as the chief of the SPG since March 2016.

Akbar Padamsee

Akbar Padamsee, one of India's most celebrated artists and pioneer of the progressive-modernist movement, died at 91 in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore on January 7, 2019. Best known for his paintings, Akbar

Padamsee was also a photographer, sculptor, filmmaker, engraver and lithographer.

His paintings have found a place of prominence in eminent galleries in India and around the world.

His brother was the celebrated late filmmaker and adman Alyque Padamsee. Akbar Padamsee was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2010 and was also awarded Fellowships by the Lalit Kala Akademi and the JD Rockefeller Foundation.

Greta Thunberg

Climate activist Greta Thunberg was named Time Magazine's person of the year 2019. She started her solo protest on Fridays against global warming outside the Swedish parliament last year, has turned into a global youth movement demanding policymakers around the world to take greater action on climate change.

Every year since 1927, Time Magazine has awarded the 'Person of the Year' title and features the individual(s) on its cover of the year. In 2017, Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi shared the title along with several other persecuted journalists who were dubbed as 'guardians' of the truth.

Sriram Lagoo

Indian film and theater actor in Hindi and Marathi. Sriram Lagoo was passed away on December 17, 2019. He acted in over 250 films. He was very vocal on progressive and social issues.

Manoj Mukund Naravane

Manoj Mukund Naravane was appointed next Army chief on December 17, 2019. He succeeded General Bipin Rawat, whose tenure ended on December 31, 2019, Manoj Mukund Naravane, became the 28th Army chief.

Viju Khote

Veteran Hindi and Marathi film-theatre actor Viju Khote passed away at the age of 77 on September 30, 2019. He is best known for playing the role of dacoit Kalia in 'Sholay' and Robert in 'Andaz Apna Apna'. He has appeared in over 300 Hindi and Marathi films and numerous television shows and plays.

Bipin Rawat

Army Chief General Bipin Rawat took over as the new chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (CoSC) in New Delhi on September 27, 2019. He succeeded Indian Air Force (IAF) chief, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa who set to retire on September 30, 2019.

The COSC comprises of chiefs of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force with the senior most members as its chairperson.

PT Usha

PT Usha has been conferred with the IAAF Veteran Pin Award at the 52nd IAAF conference in Doha on September 25, 2019. IAAF president Sebastian Coe presented this award to PT Usha for her contributions to the sports. She was one of three persons from Asia to receive the honour.

Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh became the first defence minister to fly Tejas fighter aircraft from the HAL airport in Bengaluru on September 19, 2019. He was accompanied by Air vice Marshal N Tiwari, who is also the Project Director of National Flight Test Centre in Bengaluru.

Farooq Abdullah

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah detained under the Public Safety Act on September 16, 2019. He detained initially for 12 days but the period could be extended for a maximum of three months. While the maximum detention period under PSA is two years. This is the first time that a former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir has been booked under the PSA.

Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria

Indian Air Force announced Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria as the 26th Chief of Air Staff on September 19, 2019. He is succeeding Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, who has retired on Sept. 30.

P. Laxmana Reddy

Former Judge of Andhra Pradesh High court Justice P. Lakshman Reddy was sworn in as the Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh on September 15, 2019. He will be holding the position for the next five years. He is the first Lokayukta to be assuming charge after the bifurcation of state in 2014.

Chhaya Sharma

Indian IPS officer Chhaya Sharma has been selected for the 2019 Asia Society Game Changers award by Asia Society on September 13, 2019. She has been nominated for the award for her investigation and prosecution of the Delhi gang-rape case and other high-profile crimes in India.

Abhijit Guha

Indian Lieutenant General (Retired) Abhijit Guha has been appointed as the head of the UN mission in Hodeidah, Yemen by UN Chief Antonio Guterres on September 12, 2019.

Anjali Singh

Wing Commander Anjali Singh has become India's first female who has joined the Indian Embassy in Russia as the Deputy Air Attache on September 10, 2019.

Navdeep Suri

UAE's President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has conferred the prestigious First Class 'Order of Zayed II' on outgoing Indian Ambassador Navdeep Singh Suri on September 9, 2019.

Ram Jethmalani

Eminent lawyer and former Union law minister Ram Jethmalani passed away at the age of 95 in New Delhi on September 8, 2019. He served as the president of the Supreme Court Bar Association and union minister of urban development in the first Atal Bihari Vajpayee ministry.

Arun Jaitley

Former Finance Minister and a stalwart of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Arun Jaitley has passed away on August 24, 2019 in New Delhi. He was 66 years old. A lawyer by profession, Arun Jaitley also served on the Atal Bihari Vajpayee cabinet. Between 2009 and 2014, when the BJP sat in the Opposition benches, Arun Jaitley served as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha.

Vikram Rathour

Former India opening batsman-turned- coach, Vikram Rathour has replaced Sanjay Bangar as India's batting coach on August 22, 2019 after beating 14 other contestants which includes former England batsman Jonathon Trott, Mark Ramprakash and Pravin Amre. While bowling coach B. Arun and fielding coach R. Sridhar continued.

Babulal Gaur

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and BJP leader Babulal Gaur, who represented Govindpura Assembly seat 10 times, passed away on August 21, 2019. He was 89. Mr. Gaur, born on June 2, 1930 at Naugeer village in Pratapgarh district of Uttar Pradesh, was Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister from August 23, 2004 to November 29, 2005.

Jagannath Mishra

Former Bihar Chief Minister Dr. Jagannath Mishra passed away in a hospital in Delhi on August 19, 2019. He was 82. Dr. Mishra was Chief Minister of the State in 1975, 1980 and in 1989-90. He was the State's last Congress Chief Minister.

Ravi Shastri

Ravi Shastri will continue to be the head coach of India men's team as announced on August 16, 2019. Shastri now firmly in charge till the 2021 T20 World Cup to be hosted by India. Shastri guided India to semifinals at three major ICC competitions (2015 World Cup, 2016 T20 World Cup and 2019 World Cup).

PT Usha

Legendary Indian sprinter PT Usha, one of India's greatest athletes appointed as a member of the Asian Athletics Association's (AAA) Athletes Commission on August 15, 2019. This is the second time she is appointed as member.

VB Chandrasekhar

Former India and Tamil Nadu opener VB Chandrasekhar passed away on August 15, 2019. He was 57. Chandrasekhar, popularly called VB was hard-hitting opener; he represented India in seven ODIs, with an innings of 53 being his highest score. In 81 First Class matches, Chandrasekhar notched up 4999 runs at 43.09 with 10 centuries.

Sushma Swaraj

Senior BJP leader and Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj passed away at AIIMS on August 6, 2019 at age 67. She was second Indian woman to become External Affairs Minister, after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. She has been elected seven times as a Member of Parliament and three times as a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Girraj Prasad Gupta

Girraj Prasad Gupta took over as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) in national capital on August 1, 2019. Girraj Prasad Gupta a 1983-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) Officer has vast and rich experience in the government at the Centre.

Subir Gokarn

Eminent economist and former RBI Deputy Governor Subir Gokarn passed away on July 31, 2019. He was appointed the Deputy Governor of the RBI in 2009 for a term of three years and had the distinction of being the youngest Deputy Governor at that time.