INTERNATIONAL

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un declares end to moratoriums on nuclear and ballistic missile tests
North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has declared that it is abandoning its moratoriums on nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests.

Palau is first country to ban 'reef toxic' sun cream
The Pacific nation of Palau has become the first country to ban sun cream that is harmful to corals and sea life.

Iran declares it will no longer abide by any of restrictions imposed by 2015 nuclear deal
Iran has declared that it will no longer abide by any of the restrictions imposed by the 2015 nuclear deal.

Iraqi Parliament votes to expel U.S. troops
Iraqi MPs have passed a non-binding resolution calling for foreign troops to leave, after the US killed Iranian general Qasem Soleimani in a drone strike at Baghdad airport last week.

Ukrainian airplane crashes shortly after takeoff from Tehran airport killing all 176 people on board
Ukrainian airplane carrying 176 people crashed, shortly after takeoff from Tehran's main airport. The crash killed all on board.

India attends Hormuz Peace Initiative
India attended the Hormuz Peace Initiative that was held in Tehran. The initiative aimed at stabilizing one of world’s busiest shipping lanes, the Strait of Hormuz amidst US-Iran tensions.

Russian parliament approves Putin’s amendments in first vote
Russian Parliament has approved a package of constitutional amendments in a first reading. President Putin submitted the amendments to the State Duma, Russia’s Lower House of Parliament.

ICJ orders Myanmar to take emergency measures to prevent genocide of Rohingyas
The Hague-based International Court of Justice has ordered Myanmar to take emergency measures to prevent the genocide of the Rohingyas. The court also ordered Myanmar to report to them in four months on what measures the country has taken to comply with the order.

North Korea to attend Munich Security Conference for first time
North Korea will send a delegation to the Munich Security Conference for the first time in the 56-year history of the top diplomatic gathering.

Lebanon announces formation of new govt headed by Hassan Diab
Lebanon, which has been rocked by anti-government protests for the last several months, finally has a new government.

WHO increases global risk degree of novel coronavirus from moderate to high
The World Health Organization (WHO) has increased the global risk degree of the novel coronavirus strain 2019-nCoV from moderate to high, citing an error in its previous report.

New Zealand PM calls general election on September 19
New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has called a General Election on 19th of September, two months ahead of the last possible date for the ballot.

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The new government headed by Prime Minister Hassan Diab.

Palestinians threaten to quit Oslo Accords
Palestinian officials threatened to withdraw from key provisions of the Oslo Accords, which define relations with Israel, if U.S. President Donald Trump announces his West Asia peace plan next week.

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Qatar names Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani new PM
Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani had accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani. The emir named Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani as the Gulf state's new prime minister and interior minister.

European Parliament defers vote on anti-CAA resolution
The European Parliament has decided not to conduct a vote on a resolution against India's new citizenship law. Indian Government sources called the deferment of the voting on the Citizenship Amendment Act a diplomatic victory.

Jerusalem will remain Israel's undivided capital: US Prez Trump
United States President Donald Trump has said Jerusalem will remain Israel's undivided capital as he unveiled his Middle East peace plan aimed at solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, describing it as historic and a giant step towards peace.
European Parliament approves Brexit deal with Britain 
European Parliament has voted overwhelmingly to approve the Brexit deal with London, clearing the final hurdle for Britain's departure from the EU. The vote was 621 to 49 in favour of the Brexit deal that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson negotiated with the other 27 EU leaders.

Govt appoints AIIMS' Prof Suresh Chandra Sharma as first chief of NMC 
The chief of Delhi AIIMS' ENT head-neck surgery department, Professor Suresh Chandra Sharma, has been appointed the chairman of National Medical Commission, the new medical education regulator to replace scam-tainted Medical Council of India.

Government approves 2,636 new charging stations in 62 cities: Prakash Javadekar
The Union government has given sanction for setting up 2,636 charging stations in 62 cities across 24 states and union territories under the FAME India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric) Vehicles scheme which will encourage original equipment manufacturers to launch new electric vehicle models.

Indian Railways launches integrated helpline number 139 for quick grievance redressal
The Indian Railways has integrated its helpline numbers 139 and enquiries by passengers during their train journeys.

First-of-its kind turtle rehab centre comes up in Bihar
A turtle rehabilitation Centre is to be set up in Bihar's Bhagarpur forest. The centre will shelter more than 500 turtles and is to be spread over half a hectare.

India Russia to sign MoUs on AK-203 assault rifles
The Indian Army will sign MoU with Russia to procure AK-203 assault rifles. According to the deal, around 1 lakh rifles are to be received directly from Russia and the rest will be manufactured in India.

Kochi to host global meet on marine ecosystem
The Marine Ecosystems-Challenges and Opportunities (MEOCS), the third international symposium is to be held in Kochi. The symposium is conducted by the Marine Biological association of India.

Challakere to be ISRO’s astronaut training hub
India's world-class facility for training astronauts will be established in the next three years at Challakere, a shrubby, arid oilseeds town on the Bengaluru-Pune NH4 in Chitradurga district of Karnataka.

Javadekar to confer first 'Antarrashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman' to 30 media houses
Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar will confer the first 'Antarrashtriya Yoga Diwans Media Samman' to 30 media houses in New Delhi. The International Day of Yoga is being celebrated annually on 21 of June every year, since 2015.

Women Science Congress begins in Bengaluru
The Women Science Congress was inaugurated at the ongoing Indian Science Congress in Bengaluru. DRDO Aeronautical Systems Director General Dr. Tessy Thomas who is known as Missile Woman of India graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

2nd round of Intensified Mission Indradhanush- 2 begins
The second phase of Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 rolled out at block level in 35 districts of Uttar Pradesh.
Ravindra Nath Mahto elected as Jharkhand Assembly Speaker
Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) legislator Ravindra Nath Mahto from Nala constituency was unanimously elected as the new Assembly Speaker.

Gujarat: 31st International Kite Festival launched in Ahmedabad
The 31st International Kite Festival has been launched at Sabarmati river front in Ahmedabad.

Govt issues revised norms for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters with other nations
The Centre has issued revised guidelines for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters with other nations as part of the government’s policy of zero tolerance for crime and its endeavour to fast track the dispensation of justice.

Centre notifies new Wetland Conservation Rules
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the new Wetland Conservation Rules which prohibit setting up or expansion of industries and disposal of construction and demolition waste within the wetlands.

16th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas being celebrated on January 9
January 9 is observed as Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. It also commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on 9 January 1915.

Institutions at Gujarat Ayurved University to get status of Institution of National Importance
The Union Cabinet has approved conferring the status of Institution of National Importance to a cluster of Ayurvedic institutions at the Gujarat Ayurved University campus in Jamnagar.

India To Sign Pact With Gates Foundation To Improve Quality Of Country’s Health Sector
The Union Cabinet has given ex post facto approval to the memorandum of cooperation (MoC) signed between the government and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) in the field of health.

Cabinet approves India-Mongolia agreement on space cooperation
The Cabinet gave its approval for an Agreement between India and Mongolia on Cooperation in the Exploration and Uses of Outer Space for Peaceful and Civilian Purposes.

Justice Dilip Bhosale Resigns As Lokpal Member, 9 Months After Appointment
Justice Dilip B Bhosale has resigned as member of the country’s anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal, citing personal reasons, nine months after he was appointed to the Constitutional post.

Forest Committee approves scheme to ‘trade’ in forests
The Forest Advisory Committee, an apex body tasked with adjudicating requests by the industry to raze forest land for commercial ends, has approved a scheme that could allow “forests” to be traded as a commodity.

India erects “steel fence” across Pakistan, Bangladesh border
India will erect non-cut steel fence in the sensitive areas of Pakistan and Bangladesh borders.

January 10: World Hindi Day
The World Hindi day is celebrated every year on January 10 in order to promote the language world-wide.

Gol established I4C and a portal to deal cyber crimes
The Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and a National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal.

State Energy Efficiency Index released by Gol
Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) launched the State Energy Efficiency Index, 2019 in association with Alliance for Energy Efficient Economy. The report was prepared considering the basic energy requirements such as coal, electricity, gas and oil.

Access to Internet-a fundamental right
The Supreme Court of India said that Right of access to internet is a fundamental right. The Court had asked the administration of Jammu and Kashmir to review the curbs on internet in a week.

Indian Navy to host multi-nation military drill
Indian Navy will be hosting military drill called ‘Milan 2020’ at Visakhapatnam. MILAN stands for ‘Multilateral Naval Exercise’. The Event will witness the participation of several countries.

Gol to launch Purvodaya to accelerate Eastern India Development
The Ministry of Steel announced that it will launch “Purvodaya”, a world class steel hub. The hub aims at an accelerated development programme of eastern states.

Smriti Irani launches Yashaswini Scheme for Women entrepreneurship in Goa
Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Textiles, Smriti Irani launched Yashaswini Scheme for Women entrepreneurship.

Under Yashaswini scheme, women self-help groups will be given interest free loans of up to Rs Five lakh for business.

Home Minister Amit Shah launched country’s first Cyber Crime Prevention Unit AASHVAST
Home Minister Amit Shah launched the country’s first Cyber Crime Prevention Unit called the “Cyber AASHVAST” in Gandhinagar. Along with AASHVAST, the Video Integration and Statewide Advance Security project called VISWAS was also launched.

DRDO’s Naval variant of Light Combat Aircraft makes its first successful landing
The naval version of indigenous Light Combat Aircraft, LCA, made its first successful landing on the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

National Youth Day: January 12
The National Youth Day has been celebrated every year on 12 January. This is the day when Swami Vivekananda, one of the greatest social reformers, thinkers, and philosophers of India, was born.

PM Modi launches projects worth 600 crore rupees on 150th year celebrations of Kolkata Port Trust
The Kolkata Port has been renamed as Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port. Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi announced this in Kolkata on the occasion of 150th year’s celebrations of the Kolkata Port Trust.

Kaziranga has one of the highest numbers of wetland birds
Kaziranga National Park recorded 96 species of wetland birds — one of the highest for wildlife reserves in India, according to the second wetland bird count conducted on January 9-10.

Japan Coast Guard Ship ‘Echigo’ arrives in Chennai
The Japan Coast Guard Ship ‘Echigo’ has arrived in Chennai on a five-day goodwill visit. It will be participating in the Annual Joint Exercise ‘Sahyog-Kaajin’ with the Indian Coast Guard off Chennai on coming.
Centre identifies 26 islands of Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep for holistic development by promoting tourism
The Centre has identified 16 islands in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and 10 in Lakshadweep for holistic development by promoting tourism and offering facilities for export of seafood and coconut-based products.

India and Finland ink MoU to enhance bilateral defence cooperation
Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence of Finland Mr Juuka Juusti signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to further defence cooperation between India and Finland.

No documents will be asked or biometric taken for NPR: Govt
Government has said that no documents will be asked for or biometric taken for National Population Register (NPR).

Dharmendra Pradhan to launch ‘Saksham’, annual one-month long, people centric fuel conservation mega campaign of PCRA
Saksham, an annual one-month long, people-centric fuel conservation mega campaign of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) was launched on 16th January by Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

IMD to change reference dates for monsoon onset, withdrawal: MoES
The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) will change the reference dates for onset and withdrawal of southwest monsoon from this year. The four-month monsoon season is from June 1 to September 30.

7,990 business people committed suicide in 2018; up 2.7 per cent: NCRB data
A total of 7,990 business people died by committing suicide in 2018, up 2.7 per cent from 7,778 the previous year, show government statistics from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The largest number of such cases were in Karnataka (1,113). This is followed by Maharashtra (969) and Tamil Nadu (931).

India to invite Imran Khan for Shanghai Council meet
Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan will be invited to participate in the Heads of Government Council meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) that will be hosted in India this year.

PM Modi welcomes agreement to permanently settle Bru-Reang refugees in Tripura
Prime Minister Narendra Modi has welcomed the agreement to permanently settle the Bru-Reang refugees in Tripura saying it will greatly help them.

The Union Government has signed an agreement with stakeholders from the State of Tripura, Mizoram and members of the Bru community bringing an end to the 22-year old Bru refugee crisis.

India successfully launches high power communication satellite GSAT-30
India’s high-power communication satellite GSAT-30 was successfully launched onboard Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana.

Aadhaar mandatory to get benefits under scheme for civilian victims of terror, communal violence
In a notification, the Union Home Ministry said that Aadhaar will be required for getting benefits under a central government scheme for providing financial assistance to the family of victims of violence perpetrated by terrorists or Naxals, and communal riots.

DV Sadananda Gowda launches APNA UREA – SonaUgle” brand of HURL
Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda has launched the APNA UREA - Sona Ugle brand of Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited (HURL) at a function in New Delhi.

State of Art Tejas express train between Mumbai-Ahmedabad flagged off
The state of art- new Tejas Express train between Ahmedabad and Mumbai Central has been flagged off by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani at Ahmedabad Railway Station.

Centre appoints Nripendra Misra as chairman of NMML executive council
Former principal secretary to the Prime Minister, Nripendra Misra, has been appointed chairperson of the executive council of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML).

National Ganga Mission Begins Conservation of wetlands along the Ganges
The National Mission of Clean Ganga (NMCG) has taken up the initiative under Namami Gange Project to conserve wetlands of the Ganges basin.

Gol launches “Seismic Hazard Microzonation” to minimize earthquake disasters
The Ministry of Earth Science has launched Seismic Hazard Microzonation project in major cities of India. The project aims to reduce hazards of seismic activities by putting in adequate measures.

WHO endorses India’s TB test TrueNat for more accuracy
Government of India renamed its National TB Control Programme to National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme. Also, the WHO (World Health Organization) endorsed on technology developed by Indian scientists to detect the disease called TrueNat MTB in terms of accuracy.

9th International Children’s Film Festival begins in Kolkata
The 9th International Children’s Film Festival begins in Kolkata with the screening of Aizaz Khan directed Hamid.

Industrial Meet of ‘Wings India’-Asia’s largest Civil Aviation Event held at Bengaluru
The Industrial meet of the Asia’s largest Civil Aviation was held in Bengaluru.

India successfully test-fires K-4 ballistic missile
India has successfully test-fired a 3,500 kilometre range nuclear capable missile that can be launched from a submarine. The test of the K-4 ballistic missile was conducted off the Vizag coast in Andhra Pradesh.

IAF inducts its first squadron of Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft equipped with BrahMos missiles
The Indian Air Force has inducted its first squadron of Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft carrying the BrahMos missiles in the South at its Thanjavur base in Tamil Nadu.
SC again highlights taking away disqualification power from Speakers
The Supreme Court of India has asked Parliament to amend the Constitution to strip Legislative Assembly Speakers of their exclusive power to decide whether legislators should be disqualified or not under the anti-defection law.

Rs 45,000 cr Submarine Project: MDL and L&T get a go ahead
The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by defence minister Rajnath Singh, has shortlisted state-run Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd and Larsen and Toubro Ltd for the Indian Navy’s ₹45,000 crore submarine project.

Cabinet gives approval to EC to enter into MoU with Election Commissions of Tunisia and Papua New Guinea
The Union Cabinet gave approval to Election Commission of India to enter into MoU with the Independent High Authority for Elections of Tunisia and the Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission for elections for cooperation in the field of electoral management and administration.

Jaipur Literature Festival begins
Jaipur Literature Festival begun on January 23. About 500 speakers of different fields are participating in the festival, which is currently in its 13th year.

Cabinet approves over Rs 4300 cr to establish permanent campuses for new NITs
The Union Cabinet approved to Revised Cost Estimates for establishment of permanent campuses of new National Institutes of Technology, NITs, at a total cost of 4371.90 crore rupees for the period till 2021-2022.

Six of India’s 10 most polluted cities in UP, Jharkhand’s Jharia tops list
Six of India’s 10 most polluted cities are in Uttar Pradesh, according to Greenpeace India’s fourth Airpocalypse report. Noida, Ghaziabad, Bareilly, Allahabad, Moradabad and Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh figure in list of 10 most polluted cities topped by Jharia in Jharkhand and closely followed by Dhanbad in the same state.

Lunglei in Mizoram is the least polluted followed by Dhanbad in the same state.

India, Bangladesh sign agreement to upgrade Ashuganj-Akhaura road into 4-lane highway
India and Bangladesh signed an agreement to upgrade the 50.58-kilometre long road between Ashuganj river port and the Akhaura land port in Bangladesh into a 4-lane highway.

CEC Sunil Arora assumes Chairmanship of FEMBoSA for 2020
Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora has assumed Chairmanship of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) for the year 2020.

National Voters’ Day being celebrated on January 25
The 10th National Voters’ Day (NVD) will be celebrated on January 25th. The theme for NVD-2020 is ‘Election Literacy for Stronger Democracy.

Humanoid Joins ISRO’s Gaganyaan Space Mission Set For Dec 2020
The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has unveiled a humanoid or human-robot named ‘Vyommitra’ which will be sent to space as part of the Gaganyaan mission.

Govt announces to set up ten chairs in various universities in different fields to encourage women to carry out research activities
The Ministry of Women and Child Development announced to set up ten Chairs in different fields with an aim to carry out research activities to encourage women. The initiative called the

Ganga-Volga Dialogue held with Russia to enhance Connectivity
The Ganga-Volga Dialogue was held between India and Russia in New Delhi. The dialogue focused in providing interface between the civilizations of the countries.

India’s first Super Fab Lab inaugurated in Kerala
India’s first Super Fab Lab was inaugurated in Kerala. The laboratory is to function in collaboration with Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA. It is the only laboratory that is being installed outside US.

Department of Biotechnology held International Summit on Women in STEM
The Department of Biotechnology held an International Summit on Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) with the Theme: Visualizing the Future: New Skylines.

Indian Railway’s first Waste to Energy Plant uses “PolyCrack” Technology
The East Coast Railways commissioned the first waste-to-energy plant of Railways sector of India. It is the fourth such plant in the country.

‘Bharat Parv 2020’ begins at Red Fort to celebrate spirit of India
Bharat Parv 2020, a festival to celebrate the spirit of India has begun at Red Fort ground in New Delhi. It will continue till 31st of this month.

PM to inaugurate 3rd Global Potato Conclave-2020 at Gandhinagar in Gujarat January 28
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 3rd Global Potato Conclave-2020 at Gandhinagar in Gujarat through video conferencing on January 28.

Centre & Assam govt to provide 1,500 crore rupees assistance for economic development of community under agreement
The Centre has signed an accord with the Assam-based different insurgent groups and civil societies including the National Democratic Front of Bodoland.

India, France to partner on museums
India and France will work together in the field of museums, cultural spaces and research, and a joint working group will be established for this purpose.

African cheetahs to prowl Indian forests as Supreme Court lifts stay
The Supreme Court of India has lifted its seven-year stay on a proposal to introduce African cheetahs from Namibia into the Indian habitat on an experimental basis.

10 more wetlands in India declared as Ramsar sites
Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar has announced that the Ramsar Convention has declared 10 more wetlands from India as sites of “international importance”, taking the total number of Ramsar sites in India to 37.

Jitendra Singh launches Bhuvan Panchayat V3 web Portal
Union Minister of State for PMO Dr Jitendra Singh launched the Bhuvan Panchayat V3 web Portal that will enhance network application of gram panchayats.
Govt targets to install 175 Giga Watt renewable energy by 2022
The Union Government has targeted to install 175 Giga Watt renewable energy by 2022 to build a healthy planet with less carbon intensive economy.

Cabinet approves Medical Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Bill to raise upper limit for termination of pregnancy to 24 weeks
The Union Cabinet has approved the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The bill will amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar has said, for Medical termination of pregnancy, permission will be needed, from two doctors and one of them must be a government doctor. The limit of termination of pregnancy has been increased from 20 weeks to 24 weeks.

Govt gives nod to amendments in National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill, 2019
The Union Cabinet has approved the amendments to the National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill, 2019 for the Homoeopathic Central Council Act, 1973. The amendments will ensure necessary regulatory reforms in the field of Homoeopathic education.

No time limit for anticipatory bail, rules SC
The Supreme Court of India has ruled that no time limit could be fixed while granting anticipatory bail, and that it could continue till the end of trial.

Uttar Pradesh’s Chaudauli district tops Niti’s ranking in Dec
Chaudauli district in Uttar Pradesh has topped the list of aspirational districts ranked by the government think tank Niti Aayog in December 2019.

Govt aims to achieve objective of Housing for All by 2022 under PMAY-G
The Union Government aims to achieve objective of Housing for All by 2022 under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Grameen.

Govt’s UJALA, SLNP complete five years of illuminating nation
UJALA and Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) of the central government have completed five successful years of illuminating the country.

India continues to be top sourcing market for Sri Lankan tourism
India continued to be the top sourcing market for Sri Lankan tourism with Indian tourists constituting maximum 19 per cent of total tourist arrivals to the island nation in 2019.

India To Sign Pact With Gates Foundation To Improve Quality Of Country’s Health Sector
The Union Cabinet has given ex post facto approval to the memorandum of cooperation (MoC) signed between the government and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) in the field of health.

‘Shopper’ Malware Affects Over 14% of Indian Smartphone Users With Fake Reviews
Researchers from cybersecurity solutions provider Kaspersky, revealed that a new Trojan malware application called ‘Shopper’ has infected more than 14.23% Indian users.

Statue of Unity included in 8 Wonders of SCO
The Statue of Unity that was inaugurated by PM Modi in October 2018 has been included in 8 wonders of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization).

‘Samvidhaan’ is Oxford’s Hindi word of 2019
Oxford University Press (OUP) named Samvidhaan’ (Constitution) the Oxford Hindi Word of 2019. The word ‘Samvidhaan’ first received widespread attention in August 2019.

Banking & Economy

Govt unveils Rs 102 lakh crore 5 year plan for mega infrastructure push
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has unveiled infrastructure projects worth 102 lakh crore rupees that will be implemented in the next five years as a part of the government’s spending push to the infrastructure sector.

Four core industries’ output contracts 1.5% in November
The output of four core industries have contracted 1.5 per cent in November. In the same month last year, it grew 3.3 per cent. This is the fourth continuous month of decline reported in the core industries.

Current Account Deficit Narrows To 0.9% Of GDP In September Quarter
The current account deficit narrowed to 0.9 per cent of GDP or $6.3 billion in the July-September quarter - the second quarter of the current fiscal year, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed.

RBI launches mobile app for visually challenged to identify denomination of currency notes
Reserve Bank of India, RBI has launched a mobile app, MANI, Mobile Aided Note Identifier, to help visually challenged people to identify denomination of currency notes. The app, which is available both on Android and iOS operating systems.

TRAI amends new regulatory framework for cable & broadcasting services
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, TRAI has made amendments to the new regulatory framework for cable and broadcasting services. Under it, cable TV users will be able to access more channels at lower subscription.

The Authority has also capped at 160 rupees the amount consumers will have to pay monthly for all free to air channels.

GST revenue collection increased by 16% in December 2019; crosses one lakh crore rupee mark
The GST revenue collection has crossed one lakh crore rupees in December last year, which is a growth of 16 per cent over the revenue collected in the same month in 2018.

Government cuts import duty on crude and refined Palm oil
Government has slashed import duty on refined palmolein from 50 per cent to 45 per cent and crude palm oil (CPO) from 40 per cent to 37.5 per cent with immediate effect.

The duty cut has been made under the ASEAN agreement and the India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (IMCECA).

Gold imports dip 7% in April-November to 20.6 billion
According to the union commerce ministry data, India’s gold imports fell about 7 percent to 20.6 billion dollars during April to November period of the ongoing financial year. Imports of the yellow metal stood at 22.2 billion dollars in the same period of the previous fiscal.
ONGC walks away with all 7 oil, gas blocks on offer in latest bid round
State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) walked away with all the seven oil and gas blocks on offer in the latest bid round that saw just eight bids coming in.

Bank credit grows 7.10% to Rs 99,47 lakh cr; deposits up 10% to Rs 130 lakh cr
According to the latest Reserve Bank data, banks' credit and deposits grew by 7.10 per cent and 10.09 per cent to Rs 99.47 lakh crore and Rs 130.08 lakh crore in the fortnight ended December 20.

Bank of Baroda joins hands with JM Financial for co-lending
Public Sector lender Bank of Baroda has inked a strategic co-lending agreement with JM Financial Home Loans Limited (JMFLH), the housing finance subsidiary of JM Financial Group, for providing retail loans to home buyers.

Adani Ports buys Krishnapatnam Port from CVR Group for Rs 13,500 crore
Gautam Adani-led Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) will buy a 75 per cent stake in Krishnapatnam Port Company Ltd, the entity that runs a private deep-water port at Krishnapatnam in Andhra Pradesh’s Nellore district, for Rs 13,500 crore.

CSC inks pact with Paytm Payments Bank for sale of FASTags
CSC e-Governance Services India has signed a memorandum of understanding with Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) for sale of FASTags.

Cyrus Mistry backs out of battle for helming Tata Sons
Cyrus Mistry, the ousted chairman of Tata Sons, has stated that he will not pursue the executive chairmanship of the corporate group or directorship of other Tata firms despite the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) ruling in his favour.

IOB receives Rs 4,360 crore capital infusion
State-owned Indian Overseas Bank has received government’s capital of Rs 4,360 crore towards contribution in the preferential allotment of equity shares. The bank has reported widening of net loss to Rs 2,253.64 crore for the quarter-ending September 30, 2019.

Claims worth Rs 4,800 cr admitted from fixed deposit holders of debt-laden DHFL
The Reserve Bank-appointed administrator of beleaguered Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL) has admitted close to Rs 4,800 crore of claims submitted by fixed deposit holders of the company.

RBI buys three long-term securities worth Rs 10,000 cr in 3rd special OMO
In the third special open market operation in many weeks, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had bought three long-term securities worth 10,000 crore rupees while selling the same amount of three short-term bonds.

RBI revises PCA regime for urban co-operative banks facing financial stress
The Reserve Bank of India has rationalised its Supervisory Action Framework (SAF).
UCBs may be placed under PCA if net non-performing assets (NPAs) exceed 6 per cent of net advances, incurs losses for two consecutive financial years or has accumulated losses and capital adequacy falls below 9 per cent.

Karur Vysya Bank MD Seshadri quits
Private sector lender Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.'s Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) P.R. Seshadri has resigned citing personal reasons.

SBI lowers GDP estimates to 4.6% in FY 20 from 5%
State Bank of India (SBI) has lowered its economic growth projection for the current financial year to 4.6%, from the 5% projected in November.

RBI eyes market for specialised supervision, regulation cadre
The Reserve Bank of India has decided to recruit 35% of the specialised supervisory and regulatory cadre from the market while the remaining 65% will be recruited via internal promotions.

Rs. 5,559 crore to set up northeast gas grid
The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), has approved Viability Gap Funding/ Capital Grant of 60% of the estimated cost of Rs. 9,256 crore for the project to Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL).

Mutual funds’ asset base slips 2% in Dec.
According to data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi), mutual fund industry saw its asset base slip by 2 per cent to Rs 26.54 lakh crore at December-end, primarily on account of outflow from debt-oriented schemes, including liquid funds.

Cabinet nod for FDI in coal mining
Aiming to bring investments in coal mining, the Union Cabinet gave approval for the promulgation of Mineral Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2020. The ordinance allows coal mining for any company present in sectors other than steel and power, and dispenses away with the captive end-use criteria.

IBM appoints Sandip Patel MD of India and South Asia
IBM said it was appointing Sandip Patel as managing director for India and South Asia, succeeding Karan Bajwa who has resigned.

Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan top the chart in economic offences in 2018
Data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has revealed that Uttar Pradesh accounted for the maximum number of economic offences in 2018. While the state recorded 22,822 cases of economic offences, Rajasthan was a close second with 21,309 such cases.

60 listed firms disclose ₹75,000 cr. Default
A directive by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for companies to disclose loan defaults at the end of every quarter has led to almost 60 listed entities disclosing a cumulative default amount of almost ₹75,000 crore as on December 31.

RBI allows “Video based Customer Identification Process”
The Reserve Bank of India has revised the Know Your Customer (KYC) norms for banks and other lending institutions. New amendments in KYC norms by RBI allows banks and other lending institutions to use “Video based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP)“.

Government promulgates ordinance for amendment of laws to ease coal mine auctions
The union government announced promulgation of the ordinance for amendment in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 and the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 in order to ease auction of coal mines, allow FDI and enhance ease of doing business.
Industrial production grows 1.8% in November, turns positive after 3 months
The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) recorded a growth of 1.8 per cent in November 2019 mainly on account of improvement in the manufacturing sector. The IIP growth in November 2018 was 0.2 per cent.

RBI releases “National Strategy for Financial Inclusion” report
The Reserve Bank of India has released a report “National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI): 2019-2024”. The National Strategy for Financial Inclusion for the period 2019-2024 has been formulated by RBI under the aegis of Financial Inclusion Advisory Committee (FIAC).
The report stated the following 6 pillars as part of strategic objectives to achieve the aim of financial inclusion:

Reserve Bank of India permits recurring payments through UPI
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that it would permit processing of e-mandate on recurring transactions via the unified payments interface (UPI) system.

Government raises authorised capital of Indian Overseas Bank to Rs 25,000 crore
The central government in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced an increase in the authorized capital of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) to Rs 25,000 crores from the previous authorized capital of Rs. 15,000 crores.

PayU buys PaySense for $185 mn in India’s largest fintech acquisition deal
In India’s largest fintech acquisition deal, digital payments gateway provider PayU has acquired a controlling stake in fintech startup PaySense at a valuation of $185 million.

Corporates to get 2 more years to split posts of MD and Chairman
The market regulator SEBI will extend the deadline for listed companies to split the post of chairman and managing director by two years. The deadline was March 31, 2020, but many top corporate houses had sought more time to implement it.

Seven of top-10 companies add Rs 32,020 cr in m-cap
The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 domestic firms rose by Rs 32,020.12 crore last week, with HDFC Bank and RIL emerging as the biggest gainers.

Farm loan write-offs touch Rs 4.7 lakh crore in last 10 years
According to a report by the State Bank of India (SBI), various states have cumulatively written off a whopping Rs 4.7 lakh crore of farm loans in the past one decade, which is 82 per cent of the industry-level bad loans.

Retail inflation jumps to about 5yr high of 7.35 pc in Dec 2019
As per the data released by National Statistical Office (NSO), retail inflation rose to about five-and-half year high of 7.35 per cent in December 2019, surpassing the RBI’s comfort level.

Excess monsoon trims kharif rice production by 8%, says NBHC
Production of rice in Kharif 2019 season is seen declining by 8 per cent to around 93.74 million tonnes as against last year’s final estimate of 102.13 m t for the season, according to National Bulk Handling Corporation (NBHC).

Sebi extends deadline to separate roles of chairman, MDs to April 2022
In a huge relief for corporates, the market regulator SEBI has extended the deadline given to companies to separate the roles of chairman and managing director by two years till April 2022.

FPIs pull out Rs 2,416 cr from Indian capital markets in January
As per latest depositories data, Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) have pulled out around sum of 2,416 crore rupees from the Indian capital markets in January so far.

US removes China from “currency manipulator” list
The Treasury Department of United States has removed China from the designation as “currency manipulator”. The decision was taken just before the commencement of first phase of US-China trade agreement.

India to get USD 1 billion investment from Amazon
The global e-commerce firm, Amazon has announced the incremental investment of USD 1 billion in India.

MoU between Railways and SBI for door step banking
The South-Central Railways and SBI signed MoU to implement door step banking in 585 railway stations.

New rules to sell hallmarked gold artefacts
The Government of India announced that Indian jewellers shall be allowed to sell hallmarked gold artifacts that are made of 14, 18 and 22 carat gold alone. The mandatory ruling is to be implemented from January 15, 2021.

RBI issues new credit and debit card rules to improve convenience and security
The Reserve Bank of India issued new rules for credit and debit cards to improve user convenience and increase the security of card transactions. RBI asks banks to allow only domestic card transactions at ATMs and PoS terminals in India at the time of issuance/reissuance of card.

US, China sign phase 1 of trade deal; tariffs remain in place
The US has signed the first phase of a trade deal with China, which President Donald Trump described as historic, concluding more than a year of tough negotiations including several months of suspension of talks between the two largest economies of the world.

No relief from Supreme Court, telcos have to pay dues of Rs. 1.47 lakh crore
The Supreme Court rejected pleas by Vodafone Idea, Bharti Airtel and Tata Teleservices to review the October 24 verdict that widened the definition of adjusted gross revenue (AGR), leaving the three telcos collectively facing more than Rs 1.02 lakh crore in additional licence fees, spectrum usage charges (SUC), penalties and interest.

Forex reserves rise by USD 58 mn to record high of USD 461.21 bn
The country foreign exchange reserves rose by USD 58 million to reach a life-time high of USD 461.21 billion in the week to January 10, according to the RBI data. In the previous week, the reserves had increased by USD 3.689 billion to USD 461.15 billion.

Yes Bank ratings put under review
Rating Agency Moody's has placed Yes Bank’s long-term foreign currency issuer rating of B2 under review, with the direction uncertain. The rating agency has downgraded Yes Bank’s Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA) and adjusted BCA to caa2 from b3.
World Gold Council report: RBI ranks 6th in buying gold abroad
The World Gold Council (WGC) released its report, “World Gold Outlook 2020”. In increased by 18.4% as compared to 2010.
RBI (Reserve Bank of India) currently holds 625.2 tonnes of gold and ranks sixth in the world among other central banks.
IMF cuts India’s growth estimate further
The International Monetary Fund (IMF) slashed India’s GDP growth rate to 4.8 per cent for the current fiscal and 5.8 per cent for 2020-21.
West Bengal emerges at the top in vegetable production
According to the State-wise horticulture production data released at a conference organised by the Agriculture Ministry, West Bengal has overtaken Uttar Pradesh and emerged as the top State in vegetable production in 2018-19.
Andhra Pradesh continued to hold on to the pole position in fruits with 17.61 mt, followed by Maharashtra (10.82 mt) and UP (10.65 mt).

Samsung to invest $500 mn to set up display factory in India
South Korean flat screen maker Samsung Display plans to set up a factory in India with a $500-million investment as parent Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd seeks to expand smartphone production in India.

Kotak Mahindra Bank net up 24%
Kotak Mahindra Bank, the country’s third largest private sector lender by market capitalisation, reported that its net profit rose 23.62 per cent to Rs 1,595.90 crore from Rs 1,290.93 crore, a year earlier.

Federal Bank posts 32% rise in net profit
The Aluva-headquartered Federal Bank reported a net profit of Rs. 440.64 crore in the December quarter of the fiscal, a 32% year-on-year growth against Rs. 333.63 crore in the year ago period.

Zomato buys Uber Eats in $300 million all-stock deal
Online food delivery startup Zomato has agreed to acquire Uber’s food delivery business in India—Uber Eats in an all-stock deal, which gives Uber Technologies a 10 percent stake in Zomato.

RBI Cancels PPI License Of Vodafone M-Pesa
The Reserve Bank of India cancelled digital wallet Vodafone M-Pesa’s license after it surrendered its certificate of authorisation in 2019.

Bharti Airtel gets nod for 100% FDI
The telecom department has approved raising the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in Bharti Airtel from an earlier 49% to 100%, a provision that can help the telco draw more overseas funds.

Challenge to the Central Bank of India
The Union government has appointed Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the managing director of the State Bank of India for a period of three years with effect from the date of his taking over the charge of the post or until further orders.

Sanjiv Chadha appointed MD, CEO Bank of Baroda; Atanu Kumar Das to head Bank of India
Sanjiv Chadha has been appointed as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Bank of Baroda.
Atanu Kumar Das has been appointed as the MD and CEO in Bank of India for a three-year term.
Lingam Venkata Prabhakar, Executive Director in Punjab National Bank will be MD and CEO in Canara Bank.

SBI Life Insurance profit jumps 47% to Rs 390 cr
SBI Life Insurance registered a 47.4 per cent increase in its net profit to ₹389.77 crore in the third quarter of the fiscal.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Q3 profit doubles to Rs 90 crore
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank’s net profit for the December quarter has doubled at Rs 90 crore due to a surge in micro lending despite slowing customer acquisition in Assam and in coastal Karnataka where it faced repayment issues.

Axis Bank reports strong loan growth in Q3; key takeaways
Private lender Axis Bank posted 4.53 per cent year-on-year rise in profit at Rs 1,757 crore. Asset quality of the company improved, but slippages and provisions jumped during the quarter.

RBI doubles FPIs’ debt investment limit
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has doubled the investment limit for FPIs (foreign portfolio investors) in government and corporate bonds to Rs 1.5 lakh crore, via the Voluntary Retention Route and allowed them to invest in exchange-traded funds (ETF) that invest only in debt instruments.

India growth slowdown temporary: IMF
IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva has said growth slowdown in India appeared to be temporary and she expected the momentum to improve going ahead.

Forex reserves at life-time high of $462.16 bn
According to the latest data from the RBI, the country’s foreign exchange reserves rose $943 million to touch a lifetime high of $462.16 billion in the week ended January 17.

BoB clocks Rs. 1,407 cr. loss in Q3 on rise in bad loans
State-run lender Bank of Baroda (BoB) has reported Rs. 1,407 crore loss in the October-December period of the current financial year due to rise in bad loans.

RBI raises short-term investment limit of FPIs to 30% from 20% of portfolio
The Reserve Bank of India raised the investment limit for FPIs in government and corporate bonds to 30% of their portfolios in central and state government securities, including in treasury bills, from the 20 per cent earlier.

India & World Bank sign Agreement of 210 million USD in agriculture and rural transformation
The Government of Maharashtra and World Bank signed a 210 million USD agreement to facilitate agriculture value chains, increase market access and build resilient crops.

Reliance Jio becomes 1st Telecom to launch UPI Payments Feature
Reliance Jio becomes the 1st telecom operator to facilitate UPI payments feature through its platform.

Applications invited for SEBI chief post
With the tenure of the current chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Ajay Tyagi ending next month, the government has invited applications for the appointment of his successor.
Govt invites bids to sell 100% stake in Air India
Government has invited bids to sell its 100 per cent stake in Air India. Issuing the preliminary bid document for the strategic disinvestment, the union government set the March 17, as the deadline for submitting expression of interest.

HDFC net zooms fourfold on valuation gains
Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) reported nearly four-fold jump in its net profit at Rs 8,372.49 crore for the third quarter ended December 31, 2019, driven by a value gain of Rs 9,019.81 crore from the merger of Gruh Finance, an associate, with the Bandhan Bank.

Central Bank posts Q3 PBT at Rs 447.11 crore
State-run lender Central Bank of India reported a profit before tax (PBT) at Rs 447.11 crore in the fiscal third quarter.

Reserve Bank elevates Janak Raj as ED
The Reserve Bank of India has elevated Janak Raj, principal adviser in the monetary policy department, to the executive director's post.

IDFC First Bank net loss grows to Rs 1,639 crore in Q3
IDFC First Bank reported a net loss of Rs 1,639 crore for the third quarter ended December 31.

Kotak gets time to cut promoter stake
The Reserve Bank of India agreed to give billionaire Uday Kotak more time to cut his stake in Kotak Mahindra Bank even as the regulator decided to cap his voting rights, ending a decade-long dispute over promoter shareholding.

Britain's Prince William unveils prize for climate innovation
Prince William has announced “The Earthshot Prize” to encourage new solutions to tackling climate change. The Earthshot Prize will be awarded to five people every year over the next decade and aims to provide at least 50 solutions to some of the greatest problems facing the planet by 2030.

Golden Globes 2020 Awards
Best Motion Picture – Drama: 1917
Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture: Renee Zellweger – Judy
Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture: Joaquin Phoenix – Joker
Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy: Once Upon a Time in Hollywood
Best Director of any Motion Picture: Sam Mendes – 1917
Best Motion Picture – Foreign Language: Parasite

Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National Award to Prof M S Swaminathan
The Agricultural Scientist Prof M S Swaminathan was awarded the “Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu” National Award.

Sindhi writer Vasdev Mohi to be conferred with 29th Saraswati Samman
Eminent Sindhi writer Vasdev Mohi will be conferred with 29th Saraswati Samman. He has been selected for this prestigious literary award for his short stories collection-Chequebook.

50th World Economic Forum in Switzerland begins Tuesday; Union Minister Piyush Goyal to lead Indian delegation
The four day 50th World Economic Forum at Davos in Switzerland has begun. 53 heads of state or government from 117 countries are participating in the event. The theme of this year's WEF is 'Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World'.

Iranian Film ‘Castle of Dreams’ gets Best Film Award at Dhaka International Film Festival
The Iranian film ‘Castle of Dreams’ directed by Reza Mirakarimi won the Best Film Award in Asian Competition section of the 18th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF). This film also won the Best Director Award.

Billie Eilish sweeps Grammys with 5 awards
Teen sensation Billie Eilish won the top four prizes at the Grammy Award, taking home Best New Artist, Record of the Year, Album of the Year and Song of the Year at the annual awards for the music industry.

Persin in News
Umaro Cissoko Embalo
Guinea-Bissau opposition leader Umaro Cissoko Embalo, a former prime minister, has won the presidential election with 53.55 percent of vote.
Benjamin Netanyahu
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that he would ask parliament for immunity from corruption charges, likely delaying any trial until after March elections.

Rohan Shah
Ministry of Commerce and Industry has appointed Rohan Shah, a practicing counsel at the Supreme Court, as India’s Representative and Governor on the board of Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (“ERIA”).

Qassem Soleimani
Iranian General Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran’s elite Quds Force, was killed in a US airstrike in Baghdad International airport.

Esmail Qaani
Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei named the Deputy Head of the Revolutionary Guards’ foreign operations arm Esmail Qaani to replace Qassem Soleimani as its commander.

Carlos Ghosn
Japan is pressing Lebanon to return fugitive ex-Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn, who escaped house arrest in Tokyo.

Pedro Sánchez
Spain’s caretaker socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has narrowly won a confidence vote in parliament, enabling him to govern with far-left Podemos.

Haitham bin Tariq al-Said
Haitham bin Tariq al-Said took over as Sultan of the Oman after the death of long-time ruler Qaboos.

Tsai Ing-wen
President Tsai Ing-wen won a landslide victory over China-friendly opposition challenger Han Kuo-yu to clinch a second term in Taiwan’s presidential election.

Scott Morrison
Australia’s Prime Minister Scott Morrison has expressed regret over his handling of the bushfire crisis ravaging the country. Mr Morrison has faced mounting criticism over his government’s response to the bushfires and its climate policy.

Robert Abela
Robert Abela is set to become Malta’s prime minister after being elected leader of the ruling party and is seen as a continuity leader in the wake of a scandal over the murder of an investigative journalist.

Harish Salve
Senior Advocate Harish Salve has been appointed the Queen’s Counsel for the courts of England and Wales. The title of Queen’s Counsel is usually awarded to lawyers possessing demonstrated skill and expertise in the conduct of advocacy.

Oleksiy Honcharuk
Ukrainian Prime Minister Oleksiy Honcharuk has tendered his resignation to President Volodymyr Zelenskiy after less than six months in the role.

Khagendra Thapa Magar
World’s shortest man Khagendra Thapa Magar passed away. His height was at 67.08 cm (2 ft 2.41 in) tall.

Prince Harry, Meghan Markle
Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, have signed up to a formal exit deal from the royal family, which will see them forsake their His and Her Royal Highness (HRH) titles and will no longer receive UK taxpayers’ funding for their duties.

Man Mohan Sood
Former Test batsman and National selector Man Mohan Sood passed away. He was 80. His lone Test appearance came against Richie Benaud-led Australia at Madras in 1960 when India lost by an innings and 55 runs.

Elyes Fakhfakh
Tunisia’s President Kais Saied has named former Finance Minister Elyes Fakhfakh as Prime Minister-designate. He will now face the difficult task of forming a cabinet within a month.

JP Nadda
BJP Working President J P Nadda was elected unopposed as the National President of Bharatiya Janata Party.

Shamsher Singh Surjewala
Veteran Congress leader Shamsher Singh Surjewala has passed away following prolonged illness. Shamsher Surjewala remained a five-time MLA and one-time Rajya Sabha MP.

President Bolsonaro
President of Brazil Jair Messias Bolsonaro will arrive in New Delhi on a four-day state visit to India. President Bolsonaro will be the chief guest at the 71st Republic Day Parade at Raj Path in the national capital on January 26.

Katerina Sakellaropoulou
In a historic first, the Greek parliament has elected Katerina Sakellaropoulou as its first female president.

Sher Singh Kukkal
Noted artist and sculptor Sher Singh Kukkal passed away. A versatile artist with a vast experience in fine arts and worked as a former art teacher at the Sainik School Satara and a recipient of many awards.

Marjan Sarec
Slovenian Prime Minister Marjan Sarec has announced for step down and called for fresh elections, following weeks of rising tensions within his minority five-party coalition government.

Jeanine Anez asks
In Bolivia, Interim President Jeanine Anez has asked all Ministers to resign a little more than three months before a general election.

Kobe Bryant
Kobe Bryant, USA based National Basketball Association (NBA) legend and his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna died in a helicopter crash in the city of Calabasas, California.

Benjamin Netanyahu
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has withdrawn his request for parliamentary immunity from prosecution on corruption charges.

Gita Sabharwal
The UN has appointed India's Gita Sabharwal, who has over two decades of experience in peacebuilding and social policy, as the Resident Coordinator in Thailand.

Tushar Kanjilal
Eminent social worker, environmentalist, educationist and writer Tushar Kanjilal died. Kanjilal is known for his contribution to education in remote Rangabellia in the Sundarbans in the 1970s and his work for the uplift of the people in the area.
Bapu Nadkarni
Former India all-rounder Bapu Nadkarni passed away. He was best known for bowling a record 21 successive maiden overs in a Test match.

**SPORTS**

MS Dhoni picked captain of ESPNCricinfo’s ODI and T20 teams of past decade
Former India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni was picked as captain of ESPN Cricinfo’s ODI and Twenty20 teams of the decade, while Virat Kohli was named the leader in Tests.

Manav Thakkar becomes world no.1 in latest International Table Tennis Federation rankings
Young Indian paddler Manav Thakkar has become world no.1 in the latest International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings in the Under-21 men's singles category.

Irfan Pathan announces retirement from all forms of Cricket
Indian all-rounder Irfan Pathan announced his retirement from all forms of Cricket.

Govt approves IOA’s proposal to host Commonwealth shooting in India
The government approved in principle the Indian Olympic Association’s proposal to host the Commonwealth shooting championships and archery events - which are not part of the 2022 Commonwealth Games roster - in March 2022.

Saurabh Chaudhary wins gold in men’s 10 m air pistol at 63rd National Shooting C’ship
Ace shooter Saurabh Chaudhary has won the men’s 10 metres air pistol gold at the 63rd National Shooting Championship in Bhopal.

Squash: Anahat Singh enters final of U-13 British Junior Open tournament
India’s Anahat Singh has entered the final of the U-13 girls’ category at the prestigious British Junior Open squash tournament. She defeated Egyptian Janna Galal 7-11, 11-7, 13-11, 5-11, 17-15 in Birmingham.

P Magesh Chandran lifts 95th Hastings International Chess title
India’s P Magesh Chandran has lifted the title in the 95th edition of the prestigious Hastings International Chess Congress at Hastings in England.

Bhubaneswar to host 1st edition of Khelo India University Games from Feb 22 to March 1
The first edition of Khelo India University Games is scheduled to be held at the KIIT University in Bhubaneswar from February 22nd to March 1st.

Stokes mops up South African tail, inspires England to series-winning win
Ben Stokes produced an explosive spell of bowling as England beat South Africa by 189 runs inside the last hour of the fifth day of the second Test at Newlands.

Leh-Ladakh: Both Boys, Girls teams win 5th IHAI National Ice Hockey Championship 2020
In Leh-Ladakh, the home teams won the 5th Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) National Ice Hockey Championship -2020 in both Boys and Girls categories.

India beat Sri Lanka by 78 runs in final T20 International to clinch three match series
In Cricket, India beat Sri Lanka by 78 runs in the third and final T20 International to win the three-match series 2-0 in Pune.

India finish 2019 as number one shooting nation in world
With its sparkling show through 2019, India finished the year as the top shooting nation in the world, leaving behind Olympic heavyweights China and the USA.

Lifetime Achievement honour for Kapil Dev; Sindhu is the Sportstar of the Year
P.V. Sindhu was adjudged the Sportstar of the Year and Kapil Dev honoured for Lifetime Achievement at the Sportstar Aces Awards.

Kento Momota wins Malaysia Masters 2020 title
World no. 1 ranked Japanese badminton player Kento Momota won the Malaysia Masters 2020 title.

ICC names Kohli, captain of ICC’s both ODI&Test teams of the year
India skipper Virat Kohli named captain of the International Cricket Council’s ODI and Test teams of the year. Apart from Kohli, there were four other Indians who were picked in the ICC's Test and ODI teams of the year.

Carlsen sets a world record
Magnus Carlsen has completed another record-breaking achievement when he stretched his unbroken record to 111 successive games.

MS Dhoni dropped from BCCI’s central contracts list
Mahendra Singh Dhoni was dropped from the Board of Control for Cricket in India’s list of centrally-contracted players.

Mohan Bagan enters ISL after merger with ATK
The much-awaited merger between Indian Super League (ISL) club ATK and I-League giants Mohun Bagan finally took place.

ICC U-19 World Cup Cricket begins in South Africa
The ICC Under-19 World Cup Cricket begins in South Africa. Indian team, under the captaincy of Priyam Garg, will look to defend the title.

Kuldeep Yadav becomes fastest Indian spinner to take 100 wickets in ODIs
Kuldeep Yadav became the fastest Indian spinner to claim 100 wickets in ODI during the second match against Australia in Rajkot. He reached the milestone in his 58th match.

Arjun Munda elected as president of Archery Association of India
Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda was elected as President of the suspended Archery Association of India (AAI).

Vinesh Phogat wins gold medal in Rome Ranking Series
A dominant Vinesh Phogat won her first gold medal of the 2020 season at the Rome Ranking Series event.

Sania Mirza wins women’s doubles title of WTA International trophy at Hobart
Sania Mirza and her Ukrainian partner Nadiia Kichenok have won the women’s doubles title of the WTA International trophy at Hobart in Australia.
Rajshahi Royals wins Bangladesh Premier League Trophy
The Rajshahi Royals defeated Khulna Tigers in the finals of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL) Twenty20 trophy in Dhaka.

Ratchanok Intanon lifts Indonesia Masters 2020 title
Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon lifted the Indonesia Badminton Masters 2020 women's singles title after defeating Carolina Marin in the summit clash.

3rd ODI: India defeat Australia by 7 wickets; clinch series 2-1
India beat Australia by 7 wickets in the third and final ODI cricket in Bengaluru and clinched the series 2-1.

Wrestling: India bags 7 medals in Rome Ranking Series
In wrestling, India has returned with seven medals from the Rome Ranking Series.

Mumbai marathon: Ethiopian national Derrara Hurisa breaks record to win full marathon in elite category
In the 7th edition of the Mumbai marathon, 22-year-old Ethiopian national, Derrara Hurisa has broken the event record for the full marathon elite category.

Celebrated wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt and Paralympian Deepa Malik inducted in AICS
Celebrated wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt and Paralympian Deepa Malik are among the new inductees in the government’s All India Council of Sports (AICS).

Nation’s Cup Boxing: Indian pugilists claim four silver, two bronze medals in Serbia tourney
M Meena Kumari (54kg) was among the four Indian pugilists who claimed silver medals at the ninth Nation’s Cup boxing tournament for women in Sombor, Serbia.

World Archery lifts suspension on India enabling Indian archers to represent country
The World Archery has conditionally lifted the suspension on India, less than a week after the embattled national federation held its elections.

Four countries to qualify for T20 World Cup 2021 from 16-team ICC Qualifier
International Cricket Council (ICC) has confirmed that four among 16 countries will qualify for the tournament proper of ICC World T20 scheduled to be held in India in 2021.

Govt to recruit 1500 coaches to fill up existing vacancies: Kiren Rijiju
Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has said that the union government has decided to recruit around 1500 coaches to fill up existing vacancies and ensured full support to the country's athletes.

ATF unanimously nominates Anil Khanna as life President
Senior Sports Administrator Anil Khanna, who recently decided not to contest the President's post of the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF), was nominated Life President of the continental body.

Gibraltar Chess Festival: R. Praggnanandhaa beats former world champion Veselin Topalov
Young Indian Grand Master R. Praggnanandhaa pulled off a huge upset, beating former world champion Veselin Topalov in the sixth round of the 18th Gibraltar Chess Festival to record his fifth straight win.

U-19 Cricket World Cup: India beat Australia by 74 runs in Super League Quarter-Final
India beat Australia by 74 runs in the Super League Quarter-Final of the Under-19 Cricket World Cup in South Africa. Chasing a victory target of 234 runs, Australia were all out for 159 in 43.3 overs.

India's Esow Alben bags gold in men's Keirin individual event of Six Day Berlin Tournament
India's Esow Alben has bagged a gold in the men's Keirin individual event of the Six Day Berlin Tournament.

Indian Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra qualifies for Tokyo Olympics
Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has qualified for the Tokyo Olympics with a throw of 87.86 metres at the Athletics Central North East meeting in South Africa.

People across the world welcome year 2020
Australia has followed New Zealand by welcoming in 2020 with a bang, despite calls for it to cancel its capital's fireworks as the country's bushfire crisis continues. Earlier, Auckland became the world's first major city to celebrate the start of the new decade.

World Braille Day being celebrated on January 4
The world Braille Day is celebrated on January 4 every year. This day is marked remembering the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille - for people with visual disabilities.

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

Neutral pronoun 'they' voted Word of the Decade
Neutral pronoun 'they' has been voted word of the decade by US language experts, beating out other contenders.

UAE Cabinet approves issuance of 5-Year multi-entry tourist visa
The UAE Cabinet has approved the issuance of a five-year multi-entry tourist visa for all nationalities visiting the country.

Snipers to cull up to 10,000 camels in drought-stricken Australia
Snipers took to helicopters in Australia to begin a mass cull of up to 10,000 camels as drought drives big herds of the feral animals to search for water closer to remote towns, endangering indigenous communities.

Gravitational Waves Signal Second-Ever Neutron Star Merger Caught by LIGO
For just the second time, scientists have used gravitational waves (ripples in space-time) to detect the merger of two colliding neutron stars.

World Future Energy Summit to begin in Abu Dhabi
The World Future Energy Summit begins in Abu Dhabi on January 13. Around 33,500 participants from 170 countries and 800 specialist exhibitors are expected to attend the four-day annual event.
Oscars 2020: Joker Leads Nominee List With 11 Nods
Nominations for the 92nd Academy Awards were announced, with *Joker* leading the pack with 11 nods in the Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actor categories.

World Economic Forum released its Global Risks Report 2020

The Report has listed 5 top risks in the terms of Likelihood and in terms of Impact. The global risks in terms of likelihood includes extreme weather, climate action failure, natural disasters, biodiversity losses and human-made environmental disasters.

India falls to 51st position in EIU's Democracy Index
India slipped 10 places to 51st position in the 2019 Democracy Index's global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit.

India slips two places on corruption index
India’s ranking in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI-2019) has slipped from 78 to 80 compared to the previous year, said Transparency International.

New Zealand and Denmark were found to be the least corrupt countries.
Somalia, South Sudan and Syria, were found to be the most corrupt of the lot.

India climbs eight places to rank 72 among 132 countries in global talent index
India has climbed eight places to 72nd rank in the 2020 Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI), which was topped by Switzerland, the US and Singapore.

India sends relief material to cyclone-hit Madagascar
India has diverted its naval ship INS Airavat for providing relief material to cyclone-hit Madagascar. The Indian Navy has already launched “Op Vanilla” to help the affected people in the cyclone-hit nation.

India opens its first Mahatma Gandhi convention centre in Niger
External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou have jointly inaugurated the first Mahatma Gandhi convention centre established (Niger) in Africa by India to honour the memory of Mahatma Gandhi whose 150th Birth Anniversary was observed last year.

India scores highest among South Asian nations in Women, Business and Law Index
India has taken the top spot in the South Asian region in the World Bank’s Women, Business and Law (WBL) Index 2020. The country gained 4 per cent year-on-year with a score of 74.4 out of 100. India beat the Maldives to get the top rank in the South Asian region.

India delivers 30k doses of MR vaccine to Maldives within 72 hours
India supplied 30,000 doses of Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccine to the Maldives responding swiftly to an emergency request to contain the measles outbreak in the Maldives.

Nepal invites Narendra Modi, Imran Khan for Sagarmatha dialogue
Nepal has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the first Sagarmatha Sambaad forum to be held in April 2-4 2020 to deliberate on the most prominent issues of global, regional and national significance.

India ranks 34th in Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index
In the year 2019, India's rank in Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index of World Economic Forum has moved to 34th position from 65th rank in 2013. Foreign Tourist Arrivals also registered a growth of 3.2 percent last year.