

Monthly Current Affairs January 2019

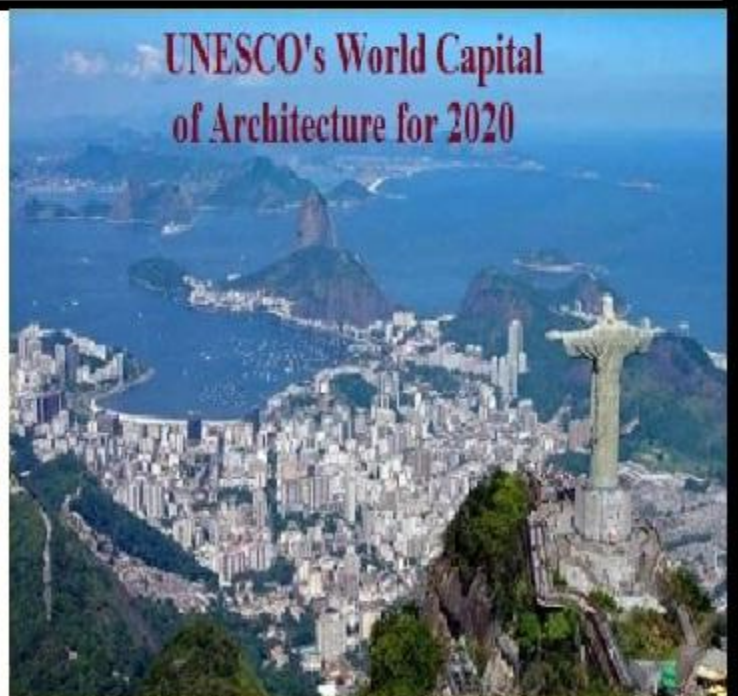


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1. Important Days

Date	Day	Details
1-January	Defence Research and Development Organisation [DRDO] day	January 1 is celebrated as Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO day. The DRDO was established in 1958 with just 10 laboratories to enhance the research work in defence sector.
4-January	World Braille Day	World Braille Day is annually celebrated on January 4, the birthday of Braille inventor, Louis Braille. The day recognizes the contributions of Louis Braille in helping blind and visually impaired people to read and write.
12-January	National Youth Day	Every year, January 12 is celebrated as National Youth Day (Yuva Diwas) across the country with great pomp and fervour. In 1984, the government said that “the philosophy of Swamiji and the ideals for which he lived and worked could be a great source of inspiration for the Indian youth” and since then, Swami Vivekananda’s birth anniversary is being celebrated as National Youth Day. National Youth Day will be celebrated here with the theme ‘ Channelizing Youth Power for Nation Building ’.
13-January	352nd birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh	In Bihar, 352nd birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh is being celebrated as Prakash Utsav with religious fervour and gaiety. Born at Patna Sahib in 1666, Guru Gobind Singh was the 10th Sikh guru. He succeeded his father Guru Tegh Bahadur Singh as leader of Sikhs at the age of just nine. The birth anniversary of the Guru Gobind Singh is also being celebrated as Prakashotsava at Patna Sahib
23-January	Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti	Several political leaders across party lines remembered the contributions of freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose on his 122nd Birth Anniversary.
24-January	International Day of Education	International Day of Education is celebrated every year on January 24. The right to education is enshrined in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The declaration calls for free and compulsory elementary education.

24-January	National Girl Child Day	National Girl Child Day is being observed. The theme this year is ' Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow '
25-January	National Voters' Day	The 9th National Voters' Day will be celebrated across the country for enhanced participation of citizens in the electoral process. Theme – “No Voter to be Left Behind”.
26-January	70th Republic Day	70th Republic Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm across the Country. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa was the Chief Guest at the Parade this year.

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2. Rankings

Reports	India's Rank/State's Rank	Top rank/Other ranks
Global corruption index	78) India	1) Denmark
		2) New Zealand
AIBA global rankings	1)M C Mary Kom [48kg category]	
ICC Test Batsman Rankings	Batsmen – 1) Virat Kohli	
	Batsmen – 3) Cheteshwar Pujara	

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3. Summit / Conference

International Summit & Conference:

Summit/Conference	Details
Women's Science Congress	Union Minister for Textiles Smriti Irani has inaugurated the Women's Science Congress at the Lovely Professional University in Jalandhar. Women's Science Congress is a part of the 106th Indian Science Congress. This is the eighth chapter of the Women's Science Congress since it started in 2012. The objective of the Women's Science Congress is to showcase the work of women scientists.
Global Investors Summit	The two-day Global Investors Summit, being organised by Tamil Nadu government, began in Chennai. It is being participated by about five thousand delegates from industries in India and abroad.
'Women of India Organic Festival'	The Ministry of Women and Child Development is organising the three-day 6th 'Women of India Organic Festival' at Chandigarh, to celebrate and promote women farmers and entrepreneurs in the organic sector from the remotest parts of India.
World Orange Festival	The second World Orange Festival will be organised in Nagpur till 21 of this month. The festival, while offering its famed oranges to the world, will also showcase and brand the exquisite fruit in order to boost its export.
World Economic Forum annual meet	The World Economic Forum, WEF, annual meet will begin in Davos. Theme of the event would be ' Globalization 4.0: Shaping a Global Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution '
2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019	The 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019 on the Regulation of Homeopathic Medical Products will be held in Goa from 23rd January. AYUSH Minister Shripad Naik will inaugurate the three day forum.
International Stock Taking Conference on Tiger Conservation	The 3rd Stock Taking Conference on Tiger Conservation was inaugurated in New Delhi.
4th Edition of Raisina Dialogue	The fourth edition of the Raisina Dialogue will begin in New Delhi. The theme of the Dialogue this year is " A World Reorder: New Geometries; Fluid Partnerships; Uncertain Outcomes ".
1st Annual Disarmament, International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme	Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale inaugurated the First Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme in New Delhi. The programme aims at equipping participants with knowledge and perspectives on various issues related to disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and international security.

National Summit / Conference

National Conclave on Technical Textiles

- Ministry of Textiles will hold National Conclave on Technical Textiles on 29th January 2019 in Mumbai. The event will also be a curtain raiser for TechnoTex 2019.
- The conclave will be presided over by the Union Minister of Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani.

Fourth edition of Bharat Parv

- Fourth edition of Bharat Parv, showcasing the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat will begin at Red Fort in Delhi. It will continue till 31st January.
- The objective of this festival is to generate a patriotic fervour and promote rich cultural diversity of the country.

India Steel 2019 Exhibition and Conference

- India Steel 2019 Exhibition and Conference will begin in Mumbai. The three-day event organised by Ministry of Steel will help chart out the future growth path of the steel industry.

Vibrant Gujarat Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 9th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit on January 18, in the presence of five heads of states and also over one hundred diplomats and captains of the country's industries.

4th Meeting of CTD

- Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, chaired the 4th meeting of the Council for Trade Development and Promotion (CTDP) in New Delhi.

10th edition of the India Rubber Expo – 2019

- Union Minister for Commerce and Industries, Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the 10th edition of the India Rubber Expo - 2019 in Mumbai. The India Rubber Expo is Asia's largest rubber expo.

Indus Food 2019

- INDUS FOOD-II with the theme of 'World Food Supermarket' will be held on 14th and 15th January, 2019, at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida. The event is aimed at promoting India as a strong and reliable exporter of food and beverage products to the world.

BES EXPO 2019

- Information and Broadcasting Secretary Amit Khare and TRAI Chairman RS Sharma inaugurated the 25th International conference and exhibition on terrestrial and satellite broadcasting, BES EXPO 2019 in New Delhi.

25th edition of Partnership Summit

- The 25th edition of Partnership Summit 2019, a global platform for dialogue, debate, deliberation and engagement among Indian and global leaders on economic policy and growth trends in India, is being held in Mumbai. The two-day event will be inaugurated by the Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu.

Regional Conference on ‘Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme’

- A Regional Conference on ‘Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme’ was held in Mumbai. Programme Implementing Agencies including NGOs and state government representatives from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Goa were present for the conference.

National conference on Agriculture-Zaid/summer campaign 2019

- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' welfare organised a national conference on Agriculture-Zaid/summer campaign 2019 in New Delhi. The objective of the conference was to discuss about the prospects of boosting production in the upcoming Zaid/summer cropping season.

Poster exhibition on relevance of Bhagavad Gita

- A poster exhibition on the relevance of Bhagavad-Gita combined with the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi is being organized under the aegis of the Consulate General of India, Dubai and VijnanVikas Pattern Institute.
- The two day exhibition which will be inaugurated this evening by the Consul General Vipul will showcase a variety of hand-crafted Khadi products from the Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan.

Workshop On Public Sector Enterprises

- A One Day Workshop on Public Sector Enterprises on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) was held under the aegis of the National Water Mission (NWM), in partnership with the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) at New Delhi.

National Symposium of Poets

- The 64th National Symposium of Poets, organised by All India Radio, started in Chennai. 23 poets, representing all 22 languages in the Ninth Schedule of the Indian Constitution are participating in the symposium.

Harvest festival on eve of Makar Sankranti

- Farmers from across the country begin celebrating the harvest festival on the eve of Makar Sankranti which is being celebrated. The festival is seen as a celebration of the end of the winter and also marks the end of the winter harvest.
- The festival is known with different names in different parts of the country with celebrations continuing for a couple of days.
- It is celebrated as Pongal in Tamil Nadu, Uttarayan in Gujarat, Bhogali Bihu in Assam and Poush Sankranti in West Bengal.

ICAR launched NAHEP

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launches National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) to attract talent and strengthen higher agricultural education in the country.
- The second Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) of the country established in Barahi, Jharkhand.

Inter-Session Consultative Committee Meeting

- Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan chairs Inter-Session Consultative Committee Meeting in Bengaluru to review functioning of Food Corporation of India & Bureau of Indian Standards.

‘Vande Bharat Express’

- Indian Railways has named the indigenously manufactured Train 18 as Vande Bharat Express.
- It is India's first semi-high speed train equipped with world class passenger amenities and is set to run between Delhi and Varanasi at a maximum speed of 160 kmph.

Community Radio Awareness workshop

- Shri Ajay Kumar Gupta, Secretary Power and Civil Supplies, Andaman and Nicobar Administration inaugurated Community Radio Awareness workshop in the conference hall of the TSG Emerald View in Port Blair.
- The Workshop is being organized by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in partnership with Seeking Modern Applications For Real Transformation (SMART).

‘Bharat Yatra’

- The Swasth Bharat Yatra, the world's biggest cyclothon to push people to eat right, culminated in New Delhi. The campaign was flagged-off on 16th October last year on the occasion of World Food Day. **Message - ‘Eat Safe, Eat Healthy and Eat Fortified’.**

42nd meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee

- The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has approved the construction of another 4,78,670 more affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). The approval was given in the 42nd meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee held in New Delhi.

PETROTECH-2019

- PETROTECH-2019, the 13th International Oil & Gas Conference & Exhibition, being organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, is all set to be inaugurated on February 10, 2019.

National Conference on Anti Doping

- The conference is jointly organized by National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) and Physical Education Foundation of India (PEFI) under the aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Sports Minister Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore addressed the concluding session of two days National Conference on Anti Doping.

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4. Appointments**National Appointments:**

S.No	Name	Designation
1	Justice T B N Radhakrishnan	Chief Justice of Telangana HC
2	Sudhir Bhargava	Chief Information Commissioner
3	Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi	Head of the seven-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to look into the revenue shortfall being faced by states following the roll out of GST
4	Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar	Assumes charge as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff.
5	Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar P	Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command
6	LT Gen Rajeev Chopra	Director General of NCC (DGNCC)

International Appointments:

S.No	Name	Designation
1	Stefan Lofven[for a second term]	Sweden Prime Minister
2	Jair Bolsonaro	Brazil's president
3	Felix Tshisekedi	Congo's President
4	Andry Rajoelina	President of Madagascar
5	Su Tseng-chang	Taiwan PM
6	India born Gita Gopinath	International Monetary Fund, Chief Economist. [First woman to occupy the top IMF post]
7	Suman Kumari	First Hindu woman to be appointed Civil judge in Pakistan
8	Indian-American KP George	The Fort Bend County Judge [first person from the community to hold the office of one of America's most diverse counties]
9	Birendra Prasad Baishya [President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF)]	Chef de Mission for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

5. Science and Technology

Cold wave conditions continue in several states

- Cold wave conditions continue in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Jammu and Kashmir and Telangana.

World's 1st woman amputee to climb Mount Vinson

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated Arunima Sinha for scaling Mount Vinson, the highest peak in Antarctica. She became World's 1st woman amputee to climb Mount Vinson.

Cyclonic storm PABUK

- Cyclonic storm “PABUK” is very likely to emerge into the Andaman Sea.

Recombinant ELISA kits

- Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh released recombinant Enzyme-linked immune sorbent assay (ELISA) kits: one for Glanders and other for Equine Infectious Anaemia.

World's youngest mountaineer to climb 7 peaks, 7 volcano summits

- Mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta conquered Antarctica's highest point, Mount Sidley. He became the first Indian and youngest man to climb the seven highest peaks and volcanic summits across all continents.

CMB-Bharat

- At ICTS-TIFR, Bengaluru workshop, project CMB-Bharat, which could help us listen to the faintest murmurs of the early universe, was discussed.

5.1 Inventions / Discover

IIT Madras team produces gas hydrates under ‘space’ conditions

- Researchers at IIT Madras have experimentally shown that methane and carbon dioxide (CO₂) can exist as gas hydrates at temperatures and pressures seen in interstellar atmosphere.

IIT Mandi team finds Malarial drug inhibits Zika virus growth

- Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi have found a drug hydroxychloroquine or HCQ, that is already being used for treating malaria to be effective in inhibiting Zika virus growth and replication.

5.2 Space Science

‘Yutu-2’

- China’s Chang’e-4 lunar rover scripted history when it made the first-ever soft landing on the far side of the moon and sent back close-up images of the previously unexplored region. This is the first time any craft has landed on the unexplored and rugged far side of the moon.
- China has named the lunar rover as ‘Yutu-2’. It follows the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System - China’s homegrown Global Positioning System.

NASA’s probe discovers a new planet

- NASA’s latest planet-hunting probe has discovered a new world outside our solar system, orbiting a dwarf star 53 light years away.
- This is the third new planet confirmed by the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) since its launch in April last year.

First manned mission to space by December 2021: ISRO

- ISRO is well prepared to meet the targets of launching Gaganyaan manned mission to outer space by December 2021. For Gaganyaan project, India is planning to send three astronauts to outer space for seven days and bring them back.
- GSAT-20 Satellite for high bandwidth connectivity to be launched in September-October. ISRO is also conceiving a mission to Venus by 2023, the Chairman said.

PSLV-C44 to lift-off with added features

- The upcoming PSLV-C44 mission will see a new variant of the PSLV in use. This variant, tagged PSLV-DL, will be the first to sport two strap-on boosters for providing added thrust.

ISRO schedules its first launch this year

- National space agency ISRO has scheduled its first launch this year on next week. PSLV C-44 will lift off from the spaceport Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, carrying a student satellite called Kalamsat and an imaging satellite known as Microsat-R.

ISRO to launch two unmanned space missions

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that it will send two unmanned mission to space in December next year and in July 2021.

US Spy satellite launched

- A US spy satellite has been launched into orbit from California.
- A powerful Delta 4 Heavy rocket carrying the National Reconnaissance Office satellite blasted off from Vandenberg Air Force Base.

ISRO: Countdown to launch 31 satellites to begin

- The Indian Space Research Organization, ISRO, will launch a student's satellite Kalamsat and an imaging satellite Microsat-R, on January 24.
- The national space agency's workhorse rocket PSLV C44 will launch them from the first launchpad at Satish Dhawan Space Center at Sriharikota, some 90 kilometers off Chennai.

ISRO successfully launches PSLV C44

- The Indian Space Research Organisation successfully launched the PSLV C 44 carrying kalam sat and Microsat R.

NASA's Opportunity rover completes 15 years on Mars

- NASA's Opportunity rover has completed 15 years of its touchdown on the surface of Mars. The US space agency said it has travelled 45 kilometres and logged its 5,000th Martian day back in February 2018.

ISRO launches Human Space Flight Centre

- The Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC), the hub of ISRO's future manned missions, was inaugurated at ISRO headquarters in Bengaluru.

5.3 App/ Web Portal/ Toll Free**‘Rail Kumbh Seva Mobile App’**

- The North Central Railway, NCR has launched a 'Rail Kumbh Seva Mobile App' to help people navigate through Prayagraj city during Kumbh Mela starting from January 15.

“Web- Wonder Women” Campaign

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, has launched an online campaign, ‘#www : Web- WonderWomen’.
- The Campaign aims to discover and celebrate the exceptional achievements of women, who have been driving positive agenda of social change via social media.

"Kumbh Mela Weather Service"

- A mobile application named "Kumbh Mela Weather Service" has been developed to disseminate the live weather information.

‘RDP INDIA 2019’

- As a new initiative in sync with the Digital India campaign of the Government, Ministry of Defence had launched a mobile app 'RDP India 2019' on the Republic Day, with the intent of making available the highlights of the Republic Day event to the general public all over the world.

“Pariksha Pe Charcha 2.0”

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, interacted with students, teachers and parents, as part of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2.0 at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi.

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5. Schemes

Samwad

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched Samwad with Students as part of its outreach programme. The Indian Space agency will engage youngsters across the country in activities concerning space science under this programme.

Train 18

- India's fastest Train 18 will soon start its services between Delhi and Varanasi. The train which will run at a speed of 160 kilometre per hour will reduce the journey time between the two cities from the present 11 hours and 30 minutes to 8 hours.

Khelo India

- The Khelo India Youth Games 2019 kicked off in Pune with cultural programmes. 1,000 players will be selected out of competitions in the current edition of Khelo India and they will be given Rs 5 lakh each per annum for the next 8 years for development of their sporting talent.

Several projects to improve traffic management system

- The Delhi Police is working on several projects based on cutting-edge technology to improve traffic management system in the city and check errant drivers. The Delhi Police will soon be the first in the country to have an Intelligence Traffic Management System (ITMS).

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- A time bound national level strategy for pan India implementation to tackle the increasing air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner in the form of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was launched by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan in New Delhi.

Sino-Indian Digital Collaboration Plaza

- The Sino-Indian Digital Collaboration Plaza (SIDCOP), an initiative to bring Indian IT companies and Chinese enterprises closer to each other on a single AI enabled platform was launched on 10th January 2019.

Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD schemes

- The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned four new projects for Rs. 190.46 Crores under the tourism infrastructure development schemes, Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD in the states of Meghalaya, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh recently.

Renukaji multipurpose dam project

- An agreement for Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project was signed in New Delhi among the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand in the presence of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- Under the agreement, three storage projects are proposed to be constructed on the river Yamuna and two of its tributaries - Tons and Giri in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

Hunar Haat

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley inaugurated Hunar Haat organised by Minority Affairs Ministry at State Emporium Complex in New Delhi.

Special weather services for Kumbh Mela

- Science and Technology Minister Dr Harshvardhan launched the special weather services for Kumbh Mela at a function in New Delhi. It will provide information about the prevailing weather condition and forecasts to the people visiting Prayagraj during Kumbh Mela.

E-Mobility Programme

- The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley launched the induction of 15 Electric Vehicles in the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance in New Delhi.
- Department is expected to save over 36,000 Litres of fuel every year besides leading to reduction of over 440 tonnes of CO₂ annually.

National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction

- The government has drafted a five-year action plan to address the problem of drug and substance abuse in the country. An official of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment said, the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction, 2018 to 2023, aims to employ a multi-pronged strategy to address the issue. It involves education, de-addiction and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families.

'SamruddhiCorridor'

- A consortium of banks led by StateBank of India has agreed to provide finance for Nagpur-Mumbai 'SamruddhiCorridor' expressway project.
- SBI has agreed to lend the highest amount, 8,500 crore rupees. Other lenders include Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of Maharashtra as well as the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India.

e-filing project for faster ITR processing

- The Union Cabinet approved expenditure sanction of over 4200 crore rupees for Integrated E-filing and Centralized Processing Centre 2.0 Project.

Eklavya Model Residential Schools

- The government will soon set up over 460 more Eklavya Model Residential Schools across the country.

'Shehri Samridhi Utsav'

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is organising a fortnight of events named Shehri Samridhi Utsav all over the country focusing on urban livelihoods.

Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Protsahan Yojana

- The Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Protsahan Yojana, PMRPY has crossed the milestone of one crore beneficiaries as on the 14th of this month.

UNNATI programme

- Minister of State in Department of Space Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated UNNATI programme of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Bengaluru.
- UNNATI is an acronym for Unispace Nanosatellite Assembly and Training programme launched by ISRO.

Station redevelopment programme

- Eleven railway stations under Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), including five in Assam, have been identified for the upgradation to airport-like standards as part of the Railway's Rs 1 lakh crore station redevelopment programme.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Awareness Programme

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India organises Insolvency and Bankruptcy Awareness Programme at Vadodara, Gujarat.

DoJ to deliver e-Courts services

- In order to provide efficient and time-bound access to the Courts services to litigant public, the Department of Justice has decided to deliver e-Courts services to them through around 2 lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs).

Special scheme to curb infant deaths

- Maharashtra Child Development Minister Pankaja Munde distributed baby-care kits to the children born in primary health centres and government hospitals.
- The scheme is applicable only for the first child and will benefit around four lakh women across the state.

‘Rag Rag Mein Ganga’ & ‘Meri Ganga’

- Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, Shri NitinGadkari and Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports, Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore (Retd.) launched travelogue program “Rag Rag Mein Ganga” and quiz show “Meri Ganga” on Doordarshan.

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6. Economic Affairs

23 goods and services become cheaper

- As many as twenty-three goods and services, including movie tickets, TV and monitor screens and power banks are becoming cheaper with the reduced Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Credit flow to agriculture increased by 57 per cent

- Agricultural credit flow has increased by 57 per cent to Rs 11 lakh crore in the last 4 years, the Agriculture Ministry said.

Sale of seventh tranche of electoral bonds begins

- The seventh tranche of electoral bonds sale began. It will continue till 10th of this month. The State Bank of India, SBI has been authorised to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorised Branches.

MSMEs Ministry established export promotion cell

- The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Ministry has established an export promotion cell to create a sustainable ecosystem for MSMEs.

FSSAI asks food businesses to comply with new packaging norms by July 1

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India FSSAI has said food businesses need to comply with new packaging regulations that bar use of recycled plastics and newspapers to wrap food articles by July 1.
- The new regulations prohibit packaging material made of recycled plastics including carry bags for packaging, storing, carrying or dispensing articles of food.

BHIM UPI transactions crosses Rs 1 Lakh cr mark

- The total value of BHIM-UPI transactions crossed 1 Lakh Crore Rupees mark in December 2018.

RBI forms committee to boost digital payments

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a High-Level Committee on Deepening of Digital Payments to encourage digitisation of payments and enhance financial inclusion.

Exports of jute products risen by 24%

- Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani has said that exports of jute diversified products have risen by 24 per cent since 2014.

GST exemption limit doubled for small businesses

- In a bid to give relief to small businesses, the GST Council doubled the GST exemption limit to Rs 20 lakh for northeastern states and Rs 40 lakh for the rest of the country.

Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2018-19 (Series V) from 14th to 18th January

- The Government of India in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India has decided to allow discount of Rs. 50 (Rupees Fifty only) per gram from the issue price to those investors who apply online and the payment is made through digital mode. For such investors, the issue price of Gold Bond will be Rs. 3,164 (Rupees Three Thousand One Hundred Sixty Four only) per gram of gold.

Ashok Chawla resigns as chairman of National Stock Exchange

- National Stock Exchange today said Ashok Chawla has resigned as chairman with immediate effect in light of recent legal developments.

Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2018-19

- The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2018-19 (Series-V) opened and the issue price of the Bond during this subion period will be three thousand two hundred and fourteen rupees per gram with the settlement date of January 22nd 2019.

UAE, Saudi Arabia to invest in Indian agriculture sector

- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu said, the government is coming up with an Agriculture Export Policy in which the districts possessing potential for particular industries and items will be identified and developed as clusters for the development of the sector.

China's trade surplus with US increased

- China's trade surplus with the United States increased last year to 323.3 billion US dollars from 275.8 billion US dollars in 2017.

Thailand set to deploy rainmaking planes

- Thailand is set to deploy rainmaking planes to seed clouds in an effort to tackle the increasing levels of pollution that has choked the capital in recent weeks. The weather modification technique involves dispersing chemicals into the air to aid cloud condensation, which should in theory result in rain.

Budget Session of Parliament to commence on Jan 31

- The Budget Session of Parliament will commence on the 31st of this month. The Interim Budget will be presented on the 1st of February. The session will conclude on the 13th of next month.

EU publishes its negotiating plans for a free trade deal with US

- The European Union published its negotiating plans for a free trade deal with the United States, part of an effort to avert a trade war with US President Donald Trump.

Water crisis in India could further worsen bank NPA problem: WWF report

- Launched with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), the WWF-India report 'Hidden Risks and Untapped Opportunities: Water and the Indian Banking Sector' provides evidence for why water presents a material risk for banks in India.

Around 61.7 mn affected due to extreme weather events in 2018: UN report

- Earthquakes and tsunamis accounted for most of the 10,373 lives lost in disasters last year, while extreme weather events accounted for most of 61.7 million people affected by natural hazards, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) has said.

I&B Ministry to increase advertisement rates by 11% to private TV channels

- Information and Broadcasting Ministry has decided to revise the advertisement rates offered by the Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC) to private TV channels.

Reform measures can 'easily enhance growth rates by at least 1%: EAC

- The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister EAC-PM met in New Delhi and took stock of the state of the economy.

6.1 Banking Affairs

RBI offers relief to MSMEs

- Reserve Bank has allowed a one-time restructuring of existing debt of up to 25 crore rupees for the companies which have defaulted on payment but the loans given to them have continued to be classified as standard assets.

Government infuses nearly Rs 11,000 cr capital in public sector banks

- The government has infused 10,882 crore rupees in four public sector banks, including UCO Bank and Syndicate Bank.

RBI offers relief to MSMEs; allows restructuring of debt up to Rs 25 crore

- Reserve Bank has allowed a one-time restructuring of existing debt of up to 25 crore rupees for the companies which have defaulted on payment but the loans given to them have continued to be classified as standard assets. The decision will help the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) which are facing cash crunch in the wake of demonetisation and GST implementation.

RBI announces OMO purchase of government securities

- Reserve Bank will inject 10,000 crore rupees into the system through the purchase of government securities to increase liquidity. The purchase will be made through open market operations (OMOs). The RBI plans to inject liquidity under OMOs for 50,000 crore rupees this month.

RBI to inject Rs 37,500 crore

- The Reserve Bank of India said that it will inject Rs 37,500 crore into the system through purchase of government securities in February to increase liquidity.

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7. Mou /Agreement

International MoUs and Agreements:

S. No	Mou Between (India - _____)	Fields	Country Details
1	India and Norway	India and Norway have agreed to closely collaborate on ocean economy and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The two countries also signed a MoU for holding an India-Norway Ocean Dialogue.	Monarch - Harald V Prime Minister - Erna Solberg Capital - Oslo Currency - Norwegian krone
2	India and Japan	Bilateral cooperation in the field of food processing between India and Japan will be mutually beneficial to the food processing sector in both countries.	Crown Prince -Naruhito Prime Minister - Shinzō Abe Capital - Tokyo Currency -Yen
3	India and Kuwait	The MOU provides a structured framework for cooperation on domestic workers related matters and provides strengthened safeguards for Indian domestic workers including female workers deployed in Kuwait.	Emir - Sabah Ahmad al-Sabah Prime Minister - Jaber Mubarak al-Sabah Capital - Kuwait City Currency - Kuwaiti dinar
4	India and SAARC	Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Modi has given ex-post facto approval for amendment to the 'Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC Member Countries' to incorporate a 'Standby Swap' amounting to USD 400 million operated within the overall size of the Facility of USD 2 billion and build in flexibility with respect to modalities of its operation, such as period of swap, roll over, etc.	Secretary general - H. E. Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial Headquarters - Kathmandu, Nepal Founded - 8 December 1985 Members - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
5	India and OECD	Human Resources Development Ministry signed an agreement with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for India's Participation in Programme for International Student Assessment- PISA 2021.	Secretary general - José Ángel Gurría Headquarters - Paris, France Founded - 30 September 1961 Members -34 member countries
6	India and China	India and China have signed the protocol for exports of Indian tobacco leaves to China. Quality tobacco on par with international standards is available in India at competitive prices and there is a good potential for export of Indian tobacco to China.	President - Xi Jinping Premier-Li Keqiang Capital - Beijing Currency -Renminbi

Other MOU / Agreements:**Government approves additional assistance of over Rs 1,146 cr to Tamil Nadu**

- Government has approved the additional assistance of over one thousand 146 crore rupees to Tamil Nadu from National Disaster Response Fund, which was affected by cyclone - Gaja.

No need for license under Arms Act

- Manufacturing of items of defence aerospace and warships will now be covered by Industries (Development and Regulation) Act and will not require any licence from the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

Aadhaar, other laws (Amendment Bill) 2018

- The Aadhaar and other laws (Amendment Bill) 2018 was introduced in the Lok Sabha.

Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill

- The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill is scheduled to be tabled in the Rajya Sabha. Law and Justice Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad will move the bill in the House.

Cabinet approves restructuring of National Health Agency

- Union Cabinet has approved the restructuring of National Health Agency as the National Health Authority for better implementation of Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana.

Cabinet approves merger of Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank with Bank of Baroda

- The Cabinet has approved the merger of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank with Bank of Baroda. The scheme will come into effect from 1st of April this year.

Government appointed Committee to look into suicidal deaths by some of students of Navodaya Vidyalayas

- Human Resource Development Minister, Prakash Javadekar has said the government has appointed a Committee to go into reported suicidal deaths by some of the students of the Navodaya Vidyalaya schools.

Cabinet clears setting up of committee to implement Clause 6 of Assam Accord

- The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of a high-level committee for implementation of clause 6 of the Assam Accord and measures envisaged in the Memorandum of Settlement, 2003 and other issues related to Bodo community.

Cabinet approves amendment to Trade Unions Act, 1926

- The Cabinet has approved amendment to the Trade Unions Act, 1926 to make provisions regarding recognition of trade unions. The approval will facilitate recognition of Trade Unions at Central and State level.

RTE amendment Bill passed in Parliament

- Parliament has passed the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018, with the Rajya Sabha approving it.
- The Lok Sabha had already passed the bill seeking to further amend the Right to Education Act, 2009 to abolish the no-detention policy in schools.

Parliament passes NCTE amendment Bill

- Parliament has passed the National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018, with the Rajya Sabha approving it.
- The Lok Sabha had already passed it. The bill seeks to grant retrospective recognition to Central and State institutions which had conducted teacher education courses without approval by the Council.

NHAI to collaborate with Oil Marketing Companies for issuance of FASTags

- To ensure easier availability of FASTags, Indian Highways Management Company Ltd. (IHMCL), a company promoted by NHAI, is signing MoUs with state-run Oil Marketing Companies (IOCL, BPC, and HPC) on 7th January 2019. It will ensure availability of FASTags at petroleum outlets across India.

Government allocates Rs 10,900 cr for development of 40 satellite launch vehicles in next 4-years

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman Dr K Sivan has said that the Union Government has allocated 10,900 crore rupees for the development of 40 satellite launch vehicles in the next 4 years.

Lok Sabha passes DNA (Use and Application) Technology Regulation Bill

- The Lok Sabha passed the DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019. It seeks to provide regulation for the use & application of DNA technology for the purpose of establishing the identity of certain category of persons including the victims, offenders, suspects, under trials, missing persons & others.

Bill to provide 10% quota to EWS in general category

- The Lok Sabha has taken up for consideration and passage of a Constitution Amendment Bill providing for ten per cent reservation to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in the General category.
- 124th Constitutional Amendment Bill facilitates reservation for EWS people in the upper caste in the direct recruitments and admission in higher educational institutions.

Rajya Sabha discusses 124th Constitution Amendment Bill

- The Rajya Sabha is currently holding a discussion on the Constitution (124th Amendment) Bill, 2019 to provide for ten per cent reservation in government jobs and admission in higher educational institutions to economically backward people among upper castes.

124th Constitution Amendment bill goes for Presidential Assent

- Rajya Sabha passed the Constitution 124th Amendment Bill 2019 providing 10 percent reservation in jobs and educational institutions to general category people with a thumping majority.
- 165 members voted in favor and only 7 voted against it. The bill now goes to the President for his assent to become a law.

Cabinet approves re-promulgation of triple talaq ordinance

- Union Cabinet has approved a proposal to re-promulgate the ordinance making instant triple talaq a criminal offence. The ordinance makes all declarations of instant triple talaq void and illegal and the practice a punishable offence with imprisonment of three years.

Cabinet approves establishment of three new AIIMS

- The Cabinet approved the establishment of three more All India Institute of Medical Sciences, AIIMS to boost healthcare infrastructure in the country. Two in Jammu & Kashmir and one at Rajkot in Gujarat.

Centre, six states sign agreement for Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project

- An agreement for Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project was signed in New Delhi among the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand in the presence of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- Under the agreement, three storage projects are proposed to be constructed on the river Yamuna and two of its tributaries – Tons and Giri in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

Government forms GoM for GST issues in real estate

- Government has constituted a seven-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to boost the real estate sector under the GST regime. Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat Nitin Patel will be the convener of the GoM.

Cabinet approves recapitalisation of Exim Bank

- Union Cabinet approved recapitalisation of Export-Import Bank of India to the tune of 6,000 crore rupees and increase in the authorized capital of Exim Bank from 10,000 crore to 20,000 crore rupees.

President Kovind approved elevation of Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice Dinesh Maheshwari to SC

- President Ram Nath Kovind approved the elevation of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dinesh Maheshwari to the Supreme Court.
- Justice Khanna is presently a judge of the Delhi High Court. Justice Maheshwari is the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court.

10% reservation in education to economically weaker sections of general category

- The 10 per cent reservation in education to Economically Weaker Sections of general category will be implemented in 40,000 colleges and 900 universities from academic year 2019-20.

Railways Minister Piyush Goyal given additional charge of Finance Ministry

- Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal has been assigned to temporarily hold the portfolios of Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs during the period of the indisposition of Arun Jaitley.

Millennials will be eligible to vote for 1st time in 2019 general elections

- President Ram Nath Kovind said millennials will be eligible to vote for the first time in the general elections this year.

Centre to renovate, develop around 400 abandoned airstrips across country

- Centre has decided to renovate and develop around 400 abandoned airstrips across the country to strengthen air-connectivity. The Airports Authority of India prepared a Memorandum of Understanding in this regard and sent it to all the 29 states and seven Union Territories expressing its willingness to develop those air strips along with the respective state governments.

SC reconstitutes 5-member Constitution Bench to hear Ayodhya land dispute

- A new five-judge Constitution Bench has been constituted in the Supreme Court to hear Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid land title dispute in Ayodhya. Justices Ashok Bhushan and Abdul Nazeer have been now included in the new Constitution Bench.

UP government approves construction of four lane Ganga Expressway

- Uttar Pradesh state cabinet approved construction of a four-lane Ganga Expressway connecting Prayagraj to Western Uttar Pradesh which would cost about 36,000 crore rupees.

GST on Haj reduced from 18% to 5%

- Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said that GST on Haj has been reduced from 18 per cent to 5 per cent and this will significantly lower the air fare thus saving Haj pilgrims' 113 crore rupees this year.

Centre releases additional assistance of over Rs 7000 cr from NDRF to six states, one UT

- The Centre has released additional assistance of over seven thousand crore rupees from National Disaster Response Fund to six States and one Union Territory affected by natural disasters.
- The states are Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat, and Puducherry.

Government convenes all party meet ahead of Budget session

- The government convened an all party meet to seek their support to ensure smooth functioning of both the Houses of Parliament during the budget session.

National Agreements:**MoU on promoting energy efficiency in buildings**

- Bureau of Energy Efficiency and CPWD sign MoU on promoting energy efficiency in buildings.
- Focus on promoting energy efficient designs and construction of new buildings and star rating of CPWD managed buildings across the country.

Ambitious programme to ensure 100% electrification of Railways

- Government has embarked on an ambitious programme to ensure 100 per cent electrification of Railways grid in the next five years.

Gujarat signs around 130 MoUs with investment commitments in various sectors

- Gujarat government has signed around 130 MoUs with investment commitments worth over 56,000 crore rupees in various sectors on the first day of the three-day Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit.

National Bench of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal, GSTAT

- Cabinet has approved the creation of National Bench of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal, GSTAT. The National Bench of the Appellate Tribunal shall be situated at New Delhi. GSTAT shall be presided over by the President and shall consist of one Technical Member (Centre) and one Technical Member (State).

MoU between Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

- A MoU has been signed between the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to promote skill development in the field of agriculture.

8. Indian Forces (Defence)

Women to get 20% jobs in Military Police

- The government has decided to induct women for the first time in Personnel Below Officer Rank, PBOR, role in Corps of Military Police. The women will be inducted in graded manner to eventually comprise 20 per cent of total Corps of Military Police.
- Currently, women are allowed in select areas such as medical, legal, educational, signals and engineering wings of the Army.

Exercise SEA VIGIL

- Ten years after "26/11", the Indian Navy commenced the largest coastal defence exercise off the Indian coast.
- Exercise SEA VIGIL, a first of its kind, is being undertaken along the entire 7516.6 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India and is involving all the 13 coastal States and Union Territories along with all maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities.

‘INS Kohassa’

- Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba commissioned the new Naval Air Base ‘INS Kohassa’ at Diglipur in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Disability, war injury pension for armed forces

- Defence Ministry has said, the disability or war injury pension for armed forces personnel shall be minimum Rs. 18,000 per month.

Defence Minister confers Raksha Mantri Padak

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman conferred Raksha Mantri Padak and Commendation Cards to NCC Cadets for their exemplary performance and devotion to duty.

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9. Awards and Achievement**International:**

S. No	Awards	Awardees
1	Philip Kotler Presidential award	Prime Minister Narendra Modi
2	Carnot Prize [by US-based Centre for Energy Policy]	Railway Minister Piyush Goyal
3	Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award	Vinesh Phogat [first Indian athlete to receive a nomination in the prestigious Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award]
4	New York Times Travel Show 2019 Award of Excellence for ‘Best in Show’	India
5	Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy	Virat Kohli
6	Emerging Cricketer of the Year	Rishabh Pant
7	Umpire of the Year	Sri Lanka's Kumar Dharmasena
8	Spirit of Cricket award	New Zealand cricketer Kane Williamson

National Awards:

S. No	Awards	Awardees
1	Gandhi Peace Prize for 2018	Yohei Sasakawa [Goodwill Ambassador of the World Health Organization for Leprosy Elimination]
2	Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award	Girish Pant, Surender Singh Kandhari and Dr Zulekha Daud [Three Indian expats from the UAE]
3	Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award for Investigative Reporting (Print category)	S. Vijay Kumar
4	Genome saviour awards	P.V. Jose, Chalakudy & Jayan K.R.

10.National Affairs

Airport in Port Blair declared as an authorized Immigration Check post

- Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair has been declared as an authorized Immigration Check post for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.
- Andaman and Nicobar Police has been appointed as the ‘Civil Authority’ for the purpose of the immigration check post.

Integrated Check Post at Moreh

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, visited Imphal and inaugurated the Integrated Check Post at Moreh. He also inaugurated the Dolaithabi Barrage Project, the FCI Food Storage Godown at Sawombung, and projects related to water supply and tourism.

6th ‘Women of India Organic Festival’

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is organising the three-day 6th ‘Women of India Organic Festival’ from January 12, at Leisure Valley, Sector-10, Chandigarh, to celebrate and promote women farmers and entrepreneurs in the organic sector from the remotest parts of India. The Women of India Organic Festival has been held annually in New Delhi since 2015.

Inauguration of the third bridge over the Mandovi river

- Union minister of road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari will inaugurate the third bridge over the Mandovi river in Panaji on January 27.

AIR FM Rainbow Goa celebrates its silver jubilee

- All India Radio FM Rainbow Goa celebrated its silver jubilee. To mark the occasion, a programme featuring Goa's legendary Konkani singer Lorna Cordeiro was organised at the National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula near Panaji.

I&B Ministry to facilitate Jharkhand International Film Festival

- Information and Broadcasting Ministry will facilitate Jharkhand International Film Festival, 2019 through Directorate of Film Festivals. The festival will be organised in Ranchi from 1st to 3rd of next month with a view to promote and showcase the Best of Indian cinema.

Revival of 6 irrigation projects

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of revival of six irrigation projects, including North Koel (Mandal Dam) project amounting to 2,500 crore rupees and Kanhar Stone Pipeline irrigation system.

Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura celebrating statehood day

- Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura are celebrating their statehood day on 21.01.2019. On this day in 1972, all the three states became full-fledged states under the North Eastern Region (Reorganisation) Act, 1971.

CM inaugurates state's first Astro Turf Football Pitch

- Nagaland got its first Astro Turf Football Pitch at Indira Gandhi Stadium in Kohima on the occasion of 100th Birth Anniversary of the legendary footballer, Dr. T. Ao.

Union Minister Gadkari inaugurates Atal Setu in Goa

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated four-lane, 5.1-kilometer long “Atal Setu”, the third Cable bridge across river Mandovi in Panaji, Goa.

Global skill summit

- Over one lakh youth to get job in global skill summit in ranchi.

Nitin Gadkari lays foundation stone of 6 road projects

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid foundation of six road projects worth 6,000 crore rupees in border areas of Jodhpur.

Rajasthan assembly speaker elected

- In Rajasthan, senior leader of Congress and former Central Minister C.P Joshi elected as speaker of the 15th legislative assembly.

12th Jaipur literature festival

- 12th Jaipur literature festival, considered to be the Kumbh of Literature, began. Around 500 authors, literateurs and thinkers are participating in the five-day event.

Four highway projects worth over Rs 3000 cr launched

- Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari today inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of four National Highway projects worth over 3 thousand 237 Cr. Rupees.

First Swadesh Darshan project

- Shri. K.J. Alphons, Union Minister for Tourism inaugurated the project “Development of North East Circuit: in the presence of Shri Ugen T. Gyatso, Minister of Tourism & Civil Aviation, Government of Sikkim in Gangtok, Sikkim.

Air services from Dehradun to Amritsar

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat flagged off the air services from Dehradun to Amritsar from Jolly Grant Airport in Dehradun.

Farmers to get interest-free loans

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said farmers in the state will be given interest-free loans soon. It will help them increase their produce further and strengthen their economy.

Govt decides to add 200 acres to its Silicon Valley Hub

- Mayor of Kolkata Firhad Hakim said that West Bengal government has decided to add at least 200 acres to its Silicon Valley Hub. The Silicon valley project was launched in August last year to attract investment in the IT/ITeS/ICT space.

“The Future of Rail”

- Minister of Railways & Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal launched the report “The Future of Rail” of International Energy Agency (IEA) at an event.

Young entrepreneurs to be honoured with National Entrepreneurship Awards

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship will host third edition of the National Entrepreneurship Awards in New Delhi. The awards aim to recognize and honor outstanding young first-generation entrepreneurs and those who have contributed immensely in building the entrepreneurship ecosystem.

National Awards to Anganwadi Workers

- Union Minister for Women & Child Development, Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, in the presence of Minister of State for MWCD, Dr. Virendra Kumar will confer National Awards to 97 Anganwadi Workers(AWWs) for Exceptional Achievements for the year 2017-18, on the 07th of January 2018, in New Delhi.

Textiles Awards

- The Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu conferred awards on 17 persons for their outstanding contribution in different fields of textiles sector in New Delhi. During the ceremony he was presented commemorative stamps on GI registered handicrafts.

Honorary Rank of General of The Indian Army on General Purna Chandra Thapa

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, conferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Indian Army on Sukirtimaya Rashtradeep General Purna Chandra Thapa, Chief of the Army Staff, Nepalese Army, for his commendable military prowess and immeasurable contribution to fostering Nepal's long and friendly association with India, at a special Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on January 12.

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2019

- President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2019 at a function in Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- The Award was given in two categories- Bal Shakti Puraskar and Bal Kalyan Puraskar.
- The Bal Shakti Puraskar was given to 26 shortlisted children including one joint award in the field of innovation, scholastic, sports, arts and culture, social service and bravery.

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar

- Government has instituted an annual award titled Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar. The award is to be announced every year on 23rd January on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) was awarded First Prize for its Tableau, 'Kisan Gandhi' in the Republic Day Parade - 2019. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Defence, handed over the award to the ICAR team.
- The ICAR tableau displayed the importance of dairy farming, use of indigenous breeds and livestock based organic agriculture for rural prosperity.
- The ICAR tableau "Kisan Gandhi" portrayed the Gandhiji's vision to improve agriculture and livestock for the prosperity of rural communities.

Books & Authors:**Atal Tinkering Lab Handbook**

- NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission releases the Atal Tinkering Lab Handbook on eve of National Youth Day

11. State Wise Affairs

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ANDHRA PRADESH

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Hyderabad (Amaravati)	N. Chandrababu Naidu	E. S. L. Narasimhan

Polavaram enters Guinness Book of Records

- Polavaram project-the life line of Andhra Pradesh, the concrete works of spill channel successfully entered Guinness Book of World Records by completing 32,315.5 Cubic meter of concrete works in a span of 24 hours.
- The Polavaram project also broke the earlier records for largest and continuous concrete pouring.

Andhra unveils second largest rock art trove

- Andhra Pradesh's second largest petroglyph site, containing about 80 petroglyphs, has been discovered at Mekala Benchi in Kurnool district.

Palm-leaf manuscripts at Andhra University to be digitized

- The over 1,600 'tala patras' are centuries old and date back beyond the Gutenberg era. The 'tala patras' touch a variety of subjects, including religion, medicine, astronomy, agriculture, law, grammar and defence strategy. The process is to preserve the rare manuscripts and it involves preservation and conservation and then digitisation.

Centre announces Rs.900-cr. drought relief

- The Central government announced allocation of Rs. 900 crore to the State towards drought relief package.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Itanagar	Pema Khandu	B. D. Mishra

East Siang District achieves 100% electrification

- In Arunachal Pradesh, East Siang District has achieved 100 percent electrification under the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana- Saubhagya Scheme.

Defence Minister inaugurates Diffo Bridge

- In Arunachal Pradesh, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Diffo Bridge over Chipu River in Lower Dibang Valley District. The bridge is 426 mts in length and its work started in 2011.

ASSAM

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Dispur	Sarbananda Sonowal	Jagdish Mukhi

CCEA approves Numaligarh Refinery capacity expansion project

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has decided to expand the capacity of Numligarh Refinery in 3 Million Metric Tonne Per Annum, (MMTPA) to 9 MMTPA. It would also generate direct and indirect employment in Assam.

10% quota to economically weaker sections in general category

- The Assam Government has decided to give 10 percent quota in Government jobs and educational institutes to economically weaker sections in general category.

BIHAR

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Patna	Nitish Kumar	Lalji Tandon

Bihar to bring Bill for implementation of recent 10% quota

- Bihar government has decided to bring a separate Bill in the forthcoming budget session commencing from February 11 to implement 10 per cent quota in jobs and education for weaker sections in general category.

DELHI

Chief Minister	Lieutenant Governor
Arvind Kejriwal	Anil Baijal

New Delhi World Book Fair

- The 27th New Delhi World Book Fair has begun at Pragati Maidan. Human Resources Development Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the annual event. Seven books published by Publications Division released in World Book Fair, New Delhi.
- **Theme 'Readers with Special Needs'.**

Indian Panorama Film Festival

- A 10-day Indian Panorama Film Festival will begin at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi. A total of 26 Feature Films and 21 Non-Feature Films will be screened during the festival.

Rathore inaugurates sharing of AIR News with Private FM channels

- Information and Broadcasting Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore launched 'Sharing of All India Radio News with Private FM channels in New Delhi.
- Private FM channels can now carry All India Radio News free of cost on trial basis up to 31st May this year.

Delhi HC refuses to vacate stay on online sale of medicines

- The Delhi High Court refused to vacate the stay on sale of drugs and prescription medicines by online pharmacies.

5-judge bench to hear Ayodhya land dispute case

- The Supreme Court has set up a five-judge Constitution Bench to hear the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land title dispute case. The bench would be headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi.

National Youth Parliament Festival 2019

- Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Col Rajyavardhan Rathore (Retd) launched the National Youth Parliament Festival 2019. It is to provide a chance to the youth to brainstorm about new India and to find ways and chalk out plans to realize our resolves before 2022.
- National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 is organised on the theme of “Be The Voice of New India” and “Find solutions and contribute to policy”.

Delhi's air quality recorded in 'severe' category

- Delhi's air quality was recorded in the 'severe' category due to reduced wind speed.

'DD Science' and internet-based channel 'India Science' launched

- Science and Technology Minister Dr. Harshvardhan launched DD Science and India Science channels in New Delhi. DD Science is Doordarshan's first ever daily slot on Science and Technology, while India Science is an internet-based channel.

2300 Muslim women from India to go on Haj

- Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has said that for the first time after independence, more than 2300 Muslim women from India will go on Haj without male companion this year.

New Supreme Court judges sworn-in

- Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna were sworn-in as Supreme Court judges. With their swearing-in the strength of Apex Court Judges has now gone up to 28.

India lodges protest over Pak's SC order on "Gilgit-Baltistan"

- India summoned the Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan and a strong protest was lodged on recent order by Pakistan's Supreme Court on the so-called "Gilgit-Baltistan" which is an interference in India's internal affairs.

New Rajdhani train

- Bi-weekly Rajdhani Express running between Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) and Delhi's Hazrat Nizamuddin was flagged off by Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal.

Heavy rains drastically reduced the pollution level

- Heavy rains drastically reduced the pollution level in the national capital, which recorded the best air quality of this year. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data, the overall air quality index in the city was 133, which falls in the 'moderate' category.

Subhas Chandra Bose Museum at Red Fort

- Remembering the heroes of freedom struggle, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Subhas Chandra Bose museum at Red Fort today, to mark his 122nd birth anniversary.

Foundation Stone for Six-Lane Access-Controlled Highway

- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari has said that works worth Rs 50,000 crore have been sanctioned for road projects around Delhi.

SC upholds constitutional validity of Insolvency laws

- The Supreme Court has upheld the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, IBC's constitutional validity in its 'entirety' and rejected petitions challenging the bankruptcy laws. The decision is a setback to defaulting promoters hoping for a chance to remain in control of their firms.

GUJARAT

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Gandhinagar	<u>Vijay Rupani</u>	<u>Om Prakash Kohli</u>

International Kite Festival

- In Gujarat, the nine-day long international kite festival kicked off at Sabarmati River Front in Ahmedabad.

1st state to implement 10% quota to EWS

- Gujarat Government has announced that the benefits of 10 per cent quota for Economically Weaker sections of general category in educational institutions and government jobs will be applicable.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Medical Sciences & Research inaugurated

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Medical Sciences and Research in Ahmedabad.
- Prime Minister also inaugurated Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show at the Mahatma Mandir Exhibition cum Convention Center in Gandhinagar.

Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 9th edition of Vibrant Gujarat global investors' summit- 2019 at Mahatma Mandir Gandhinagar.
- The main theme of 9th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit 2019 is "Shaping a new India."

National Salt Satyagraha Memorial

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated National Salt Satyagraha Memorial to the nation at Dandi village, situated in South Gujarat on Arabian sea coast.
- The Salt Satyagraha March, well known as the Dandi March of 1930 has been a landmark event in the history of India's freedom struggle.
- It was on this day, as a part of the Civil Disobedience Movement against the British rule, 80 Satyagrahis led by Mahatma Gandhi marched 241-miles from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad to the coastal village of Dandi and made salt from seawater breaking the Salt Law imposed by the British.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Shimla	Jai Ram Thakur	Acharya Dev Vrat

Manali and Kufri shivering at sub-zero temperatures

- In Himachal Pradesh, Manali and Kufri are shivering at sub-zero temperatures.

Newly built broad gauge railway line inaugurated in Una district

- Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha inaugurated the newly built broad gauge railway line between Amb Andora and Daulatpur chowk in Una district in Himachal Pradesh.

49th full Statehood day

- Himachal Pradesh is celebrating its 49th full Statehood day with much fanfare and great enthusiasm throughout the state day.
- It was on this day in 1971 when Himachal Pradesh was carved out as the 18th State of the country.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Jammu (Winter) Srinagar (Summer)	-	Satya Pal Malik

Income ceiling increased to avail reservation benefits

- The income ceiling has been increased for people belonging to socially and economically backward classes to avail reservation benefits in employment and education. It has been raised from present from 4.5 lakh to 8 lakh rupees.

4.6-magnitude earthquake hits Ladakh region

- A 4.6-magnitude earthquake hit Jammu and Kashmir's Ladakh region with its epicentre 63 km north of Leh and 193 km east of Kargil in Ladakh region.

Kerrian Gandyal bridge in Kathua

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari dedicated to the nation Kerrian Gandyal bridge in Kathua district of Jammu. The bridge has been constructed over river Ravi in Kathua district in a record time of over three years.

Winter Carnival commences

- The Winter Carnival has commenced at Drass, the second coldest inhabited place in the world. Various sports events such as Ice Skating, Snow Ski, Polo, and Archery will also be held.

KERALA

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	P. Sathasivam

Kollam bypass dedicating the Kollam Bypass to the Nation

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was addressing a gathering at Kollam in Kerala after dedicating the Kollam Bypass to the Nation. This is the first National Highway project in the country taken up on a 50:50 Centre-State partnership.

Integrated Refinery Expansion Complex in Kochi

- PM dedicates to the nation Integrated Refinery Expansion Complex and Mounded Storage Vessel at LPG Bottling Plant in Kochi.

MADHYA PRADESH

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Bhopal	Kamal Nath	Anandiben Patel

MP launches Rs 50,000-cr farm debt-waiver scheme

- In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Kamal Nath launched the Rs 50,000-crore farm debt-waiver scheme named 'Jai Kisan Rin Mukti Yojana'.

MAHARASHTRA

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Mumbai	Devendra Fadnavis	Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao

Koregaon Bhima anniversary

- In Maharashtra, thousands of people visited the 'Jaystambh' - memorial of victory - in Koregaon Bhima village, about 30 km northeast of Pune to mark the anniversary of the 1818 battle between the British and the Peshwas.

Digital platform helps Maharashtra save Rs 12,000 cr in farm loan waiver

- The Maharashtra government has managed to save 12,000 crore rupees in farm loan waiver alone by adopting a digital platform that helped eliminate bogus claimants.

Schemes for financial welfare of OBCs and SC/ST communities

- The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved schemes worth over 700 crore rupees for financial welfare of OBCs and the SC/ST communities.

National Museum of Indian Cinema

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) in Mumbai. The state-of-the-art Museum has been built at a cost of over 140 crore rupees.
- The objective of the Museum is to take its visitors through an absorbing journey of over a century of Indian cinema in a story telling mode with the help of visuals, graphics, artifacts, interactive exhibits and multimedia expositions.

National Museum of Indian Cinema

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Museum of Indian Cinema in Mumbai.

Western Railway provides 'segway' to RPF personnel

- The Western Railway has provided segways, the two-wheeled, self-balancing and battery-powered electric vehicles, to the Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel deployed at major railway stations in Mumbai.

Foundation stone of Regional testing laboratory of CPRI

- Shri R K Singh, Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India laid the foundation stone of Regional testing laboratory of Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) at Nashik, Maharashtra.

Maharashtra CMO now under ambit of Lokayukta

- Maharashtra Cabinet has decided to give more power to Lokayukta and brought the Chief Minister's office under its ambit. It is not mandatory for the states to include Chief Minister under the purview of Lokayukta according to the present Lokpal and Lokayukta act.

Domestic Council for Gems and Jewellery

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu has said that country's gold policy will be launched at the launch of the Domestic Council for Gems and Jewellery in Mumbai.

Special court in Mumbai declares Mallya a fugitive economic offender

- A special court in Mumbai declared absconding liquor baron Vijay Mallya a fugitive economic offender (FEO) on a plea of the Enforcement Directorate. Mallya has become the first businessman to be declared an FEO under the provisions of the new Fugitive Economic Offenders Act which came into existence in August last year.

MEGHALAYA

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Shillong	Conrad Sangma	Tathagata Roy

First Swadesh Darshan project

- The Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri. Conrad K Sangma, inaugurated the project "Development of North East Circuit: Umiam (Lake View) under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism.

NGT imposes Rs 100 Cr fine on Meghalaya government

- The National Green Tribunal has imposed a fine of 100 crore rupees on Meghalaya government for its failure to curb illegal coal mining in the state. The amount of the fine has to be deposited with the Central Pollution Control Board within two months.

ODISHA

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Bhubaneswar	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal

Social security pension by Rs 200 per month increased

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced a hike of Rs 200 per month in the social security pension under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY).

PUNJAB

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Chandigarh	Amarinder Singh	V. P. Singh Badnore

106th Indian Science Congress

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 106th Indian Science Congress in Jalandhar and called for the invention of new low-cost technologies for the help of farmers and also work for their ease of living.

CM announces development grant worth Rs. 208.40 crore

- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh announced a development grant of 208.40 crore rupees for funding various infrastructure works in rural and urban areas of several districts in Malwa region.

Government Job to all medal winners from Punjab in Khelo India Games

- Punjab Government will give Government Job to all Medal winners from Punjab in Khelo India Youth Games.

Development authority for Anandpur Sahib

- Punjab government said that a development authority for Anandpur Sahib will be set up to execute the development plans in the wake of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev in November this year.

TAMIL NADU

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Chennai	Edappadi K. Palaniswami	Banwarilal Purohit

Election Commission postpones Tiruvarur Assembly by-poll

- The Election Commission has postponed the bye-election in Thiruvarur Assembly Constituency in Tamil Nadu slated for 28th of this month. The poll panel took the decision in view of the ongoing relief and rehabilitation measures in the affected areas of the State following cyclone Gaja.

TN Defence Industrial Corridor launched

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a series of projects as a part of the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor in Tiruchirappalli.

2-Day Global Investors Summit

- The two-day Global Investors Summit, being organised by Tamil Nadu government, is underway in Chennai. It is being participated by about five thousand delegates from industries in India and abroad.

Foundation stone for AIIMS Medical College and Hospital

- PM lays foundation stone for AIIMS Medical College and Hospital at Madurai 12 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras Inaugurated.

Women electors outnumber their male counterparts

- In Tamil Nadu, women electors outnumber their male counterparts by more than five lakh 82 thousand, as the final electors list was unveiled in Chennai.

TELANGANA

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Hyderabad	K. Chandrashekar Rao	Narasimhan

First session of Telangana Assembly begins

- The first session of the newly elected Telangana Assembly began this morning. In Telangana, former Agriculture Minister Pocharam Srinivas Reddy has been unanimously elected as the Speaker of the newly constituted state Assembly.

Newly elected Sarpanches of Gram Panchayats

- The Telangana state government has declared that 2nd February will be the appointing day for the newly elected over 12000 Sarpanches of the Gram Panchayats in the state.

UTTAR PRADESH

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Lucknow	Yogi Adityanath	Ram Naik

Prayagraj to Katra direct bus services started

- In Uttar Pradesh, Direct bus services from Prayagraj to Katra in Jammu and Kashmir started. Now those pilgrims who will visit Kumbh in Prayagraj can directly go to Mata Vaishno devi Shrine located in Katra.

Urea fertilizer prices reduced by 11%

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reduced the prices of urea fertilizer by 11 per cent in the interest of the farmers. The decrease in prices of Urea is due to reduction in additional VAT levied on natural gas.

15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. More than 300 Indian expats from UAE to participate in 15th edition of PBD.
- Theme - "Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India."

Centers of Excellence inaugurated

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated Centers of Excellence at Deen Dayal Hastkala Sankul in Varanasi.

69th foundation day

- Uttar Pradesh is celebrating it's 69th foundation day. To celebrate the occasion the main function was organised at Awadh Shilp Gram in Lucknow.

First Cash and Carry Store

- Common Services Centres launches First Cash and Carry Store in Kanth, Muradabad. CSC will now promote Cash and Carry store one in every block across the country.

National Museum Institute at Noida inaugurated

- Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the new Campus of the National Museum Institute at Noida.

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12. International Affairs

Qatar cease to be a member of OPEC

- Qatar will cease to be a member of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. The country had sent an official notification to the OPEC expressing its wish to pull out and to focus on its liquefied natural gas production in December.

US, Israel quit UNESCO

- The United States and Israel officially quit the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) with the close of 2018.

Pakistan, India exchange list of nuclear installations

- India and Pakistan exchanged the list of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear installations between them.
- India and Pakistan also exchanged the lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen in their custody.

Newly-elected parliament members in Bangladesh took oath of office

- The newly-elected parliament members in Bangladesh took oath of office in Dhaka. Sheikh Hasina is likely to be sworn in as the prime minister on January 10 for the third consecutive term and a record fourth time.

Tropical storm Pabuk

- Tens of thousands of tourists have fled the Thai resort islands of Koh Phangan and Koh Tao ahead of tropical storm Pabuk.

China develops its own 'Mother of All Bombs'

- China's defence industry giant North Industries Group Corporation Limited (NORINCO) has developed a massive bomb to be the country's answer to the US-built 'Mother of All Bombs', the most powerful non-nuclear weapon.

Pakistan abolishes visa on arrival for Afghans

- Pakistan abolished the long-standing facility of visa on arrival for Afghan nationals. The move to restrict Afghans came as Pakistan has already decided to issue 'on-arrival' visas to citizens of 24 other countries to increase tourism and investments.

Pakistan Army inducts indigenously developed A-100 rocket

- The Pakistan Army has inducted an indigenously developed rocket, having over 100 km range, in Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) of its corps of artillery.

Egypt opens West Asia's largest cathedral

- Egypt has opened West Asia's largest cathedral in its New Administrative Capital, 45 kilometres east of Cairo. President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi inaugurated the newly-built Cathedral of Nativity and also a mosque.

Saudi women to get divorce notices over text

- In Saudi Arabia, a new regulation is set to stop Saudi women from not knowing about their own divorce. Courts will be required to notify women by text on rulings confirming their divorces.

Bangladesh**Sheikh Hasina was sworn in as Prime Minister**

- Sheikh Hasina was sworn in as Prime Minister of Bangladesh for the third consecutive. It is Hasina's fourth term in office.

Guatemala to withdraw from UN-backed anti-corruption commission

- Guatemala has said it is withdrawing from a UN-backed anti-corruption commission.

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim to step down on Feb 1

- World Bank President Jim Yong Kim announced that he will step down from his position on February 1 - much before the end of his term in 2022.

India takes over operations of Chabahar port in Iran

- India has taken over operations of the strategic Chabahar port in the Sistan-Balochistan province of Iran's southern coast.
- This is the first time India will be operating a port outside its territory.

Congo Opposition leader wins presidential election

- In Congo, opposition leader Felix Tshisekedi has won the long-delayed presidential election. The electoral commission announced that Tshisekedi has won with 38.57 percent of more than 18 million ballots cast.

Right wing coalition is set to rule Andalusia

- In Spain, a right wing coalition is set to rule country's most populous region, Andalusia. This ends 37 years of Socialist rule in Andalusia. Andalusia is the main arrival point in Spain for migrants crossing the Mediterranean.

Saudi Arabia to cut its oil exports in Jan by 10%

- Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude supplier will slash its oil exports in January by 10 percent.

China may further fortify its man-made islands in South China Sea

- China said it may further fortify its man-made islands in the South China Sea depending on threats faced by the outposts.

18th amendment of the Constitution of Pakistan

- It removed the power of the President to dissolve Parliament unilaterally, turning Pakistan from a semi-presidential to a parliamentary republic.

Tulsi Gabbard announces 2020 presidential run to take on Trump

- Tulsi Gabbard, the first Hindu lawmaker in the US Congress, has said that she is running for the White House in 2020. Ms. Gabbard is the second woman after Senator Elizabeth Warren to enter the presidential race from the Democratic party.

California sea lions killed to protect migrating fish

- Four sea lions were euthanised in the last month as part of a program to protect salmon runs and steelhead trout that are at risk of going extinct.

US partial govt shutdown becomes longest on record

- The partial shutdown of the US government has become the longest on record, with still no end in sight to the political standoff. It reaches its 22nd day, overtaking the previous record – the 21-day shutdown in 1995-96 under then-President Bill Clinton.

ICC acquits former Ivory Coast Prez Laurent Gbagbo for crimes against humanity

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague acquitted former Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo of all charges of crimes against humanity over post-electoral violence in the West African nation.

UK PM Theresa May wins no-confidence vote

- British Prime Minister Theresa May has won a confidence vote, a day after her government suffered a parliamentary defeat over her Brexit deal with the European Union (EU).

Trump nominates 3 Indian Americans to key administration post

- US President Donald Trump has nominated three Indian Americans to key administration positions as per the latest list of senior nominations sent by the White House to the Senate.
- Rita Baranwal has been nominated for the post of Assistant Secretary of Energy (Nuclear Energy), Aditya Bamzai for Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board and Bimal Patel as the Assistant Secretary of Treasury.

US to have potential missile defence cooperation with India

- United States is contemplating to have potential missile defence cooperation with India as part of its effort to deepen the bilateral strategic partnership.

Sri Lankan new opposition leader

- In Sri Lanka, former President Mahinda Rajapaksa took over as new opposition leader following political developments of last months.

China revises 2017 economic growth down to 6.8% from 6.9%

- China revised its 2017 economic growth down to 6.8 per cent from 6.9 per cent, as it braces for a possibly worse performance in 2018.

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- China revised its 2017 economic growth down to 6.8 per cent from 6.9 per cent, as it braces for a possibly worse performance in 2018.

German parliament classifies North African states and Georgia as safe countries of origin

- The German parliament has adopted a draft law that classifies the North African states of Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco as well as Georgia as safe countries of origin.

China population growth continued to slow in 2018

- China's population rose by 15.23 million people in 2018, marking a continued decrease in the growth rate of the world's most populous nation.
- India, the world's second most populous nation, has also been experiencing slower population growth with 1.362 billion.

Nepal's central bank bans use of Indian currency notes

- Nepal's central bank has banned the use of Indian currency notes of Rs 2,000, Rs 500 and Rs 200 denominations. Under the new regulation issued, Nepali citizens cannot carry these denominations to countries other than India.

World Capital of Architecture for 2020

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has announced that the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro will be the World Capital of Architecture for 2020.
- The city will host the World Congress of UIA, in July 2020, an event that occurs every three years.

Germany sanctions Iranian airline

- Germany has banned Iranian airline Mahan Air from its airports, in an escalation of sanctions adopted by the European Union against Tehran over attacks on opponents in the bloc.

India shares coordinates of Kartarpur Corridor with Pakistan

- India has shared the co-ordinates of the zero point or crossing point of the Kartarpur corridor along the International Border with Pakistan.
- The External Affairs Ministry said it has also proposed dates for the visit of a Pakistan delegation to New Delhi to discuss and finalise the modalities so that Indian pilgrims can visit the holy Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib using the corridor at the earliest.

Election in Thailand

- After nearly five years of military rule, Thailand will hold elections on March 24. The poll will be the first since generals ousted a democratically elected government in 2014 after violent street protests.

US confirms meeting of its envoy and Taliban in Qatar

- United States has confirmed that its envoy is meeting in Qatar with the Taliban, seeking to negotiate an end to the Afghanistan war despite a new major attack claimed by the insurgents.

UN chief warns, world is "losing the race" on climate change

- United Nations chief Antonio Guterres warned that the world is "losing the race" on climate change and demanded that governments make bolder commitments beyond the Paris accord.

Venezuela announces breaking off diplomatic ties with US

- Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has announced that he is breaking off diplomatic ties with the United States after his American counterpart Donald Trump recognised Opposition leader Juan Guaido as the South American country's interim President.

Kamala Harris raises over 1 Million USD within 24 hrs

- In the United States, Kamala Harris, the first Indian-origin Senator, has raised a whopping more than 1 million US Dollar funds within 24 hours after announcing her Presidential bid for 2020.

US orders non-emergency embassy staff to leave Venezuela

- The United States has ordered its non-emergency embassy staff to leave Venezuela but refused to comply with a full expulsion demanded by Nicolas Maduro, who Washington says is no longer president.

Malaysia stripped of world para swim event over Israel stance

- Malaysia has been stripped of the right to host the 2019 World Para Swimming Championships for threatening to refuse to allow Israeli athletes to take part.

Climate march to prevent global warming

- Climate march held in Belgium for urgent action to prevent global warming. The event has been described as Belgium's biggest climate march ever.

‘Uttara Devi’

- Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena dedicated to the public newly imported locomotive power set from India to be used for the ‘Uttara Devi’ Colombo-Kankesanthurai train.
- The new powerset has been imported from India under Line of credit (LOC) assistance.

Common digital currency called "Aber" launched

- The central banks of the UAE and Saudi Arabia have launched a common digital currency called "Aber", which will be used in financial settlements between the two countries through Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers technologies.

China's top negotiator arrives in Washington for trade talks with US

- China's top trade negotiator has reached Washington as the world's top two economies prepare for crucial trade talks.

Syria signs long-term economic cooperation deal with Iran

- Syria has signed a long-term economic cooperation deal with Iran. The new agreement covers the industrial, agricultural, service, infrastructure and energy sectors among others.

Turkey aims to form safe zones in Syria for refugees to return

- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said the country is aiming to form safe zones in northern Syria so that Syrian refugees hosted by Turkey could return to their home country.

UK Parliament approves Brexit amendment on replacing Irish backstop

- In Britain, lawmakers voted in favour of an amendment in BREXIT plan seeking alternative arrangements to replace the Irish border arrangement known as the Irish backstop.

Myanmar parliament approves step toward charter change

- Myanmar's parliament has voted to create a committee to propose amendments to the country's military-enacted constitution, which grants the armed forces the power to block any change.

Polar vortex brings cold snap to US states

- The United States is shivering in a deadly cold snap known as a polar vortex. Temperatures fell to minus 30 degree Celsius in Chicago, colder than parts of Antarctica and minus 37 degree Celsius in North Dakota.

New H-1B visa filing rule to give priority to workers with advanced degrees from US

- The US has announced a new H-1B visa filing rule from April under which priority would be given to foreign workers with advanced degrees from American universities.

Chinese government urged to legitimise babies of unmarried woman to tide over low fertility crisis

- A single Chinese woman has asked the law makers to legalise children of unmarried women to tide over the problem of low fertility rate haunting China, the world's most populous nation, after the number of new-borns dropped by two million last year despite the government permitting two children since 2016.

Malaysia crowns Pahang state's Sultan Abdullah as 16th king

- Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah of central Pahang state was crowned as Malaysia's 16th king under a unique rotating monarchy system.

World Economic Forum Report

- A report by World Economic Forum today said that India is set to become the world's third largest consumer market behind only USA and China by 2030.
- The report titled 'Future of Consumption in Fast-Growth Consumer Market - India' also noted that growth of the middle class will lift nearly 25 million households out of poverty.

Global consultancy firm PwC report

- India is likely to surpass the United Kingdom in the world's largest economy rankings in 2019, to become world's fifth largest economy, according to a report by global consultancy firm PwC.
- 1) US was the world's largest economy with a size of 19.39 trillion dollars 2) China at 12.23 trillion dollars at the second place in 2017.

2019 Edelman Trust Barometer report

- India is among the most trusted nations globally when it comes to government, business, NGOs and media.
- China topped the Trust Index among both the informed public and the general population segments.
- India was at the second place in the informed public category and third place in the general population category.

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13.Sports

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CRICKET

India Vs Australia Test Series

- India made history winning their first ever series on Australian soil beating the home team 2-1. Virat Kohli became the first Indian as well as the first Asian captain to win a Test series in Australia.

BCCI announces cash awards for triumphant Team India members

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced cash awards of Rs 15 lakh per match for each of the playing eleven that featured in India's maiden Test Cricket series win on Australian soil.

Dhoni joins elite list of Indian cricketers to score ten thousand runs

- Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the fifth player to score ten thousand runs for India in One-day International Cricket.
- Dhoni thus joined an elite list of Indian cricketers who had previously achieved the feat, which include Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid and Virat Kohli.

Virat Kohli named Captain of ICC's Test, ODI teams of Year

- The International Cricket Council announced the men's Test and ODI teams of the year. Virat Kohli has been named captain of both sides following a remarkable 2018 as batsman and skipper.

BCCI announces bonus of Rs 20 lakh

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced a bonus of 20 lakh rupees each for the senior selection committee members following India's maiden Test series win in Australia.

Mohammed Shami is the fastest Indian bowler to reach 100 ODI wickets

- Mohammed Shami became the fastest Indian bowler to claim 100 ODI wickets, during the first one-dayer against New Zealand . Shami reached the milestone in his 56th match, with the wicket of opener Martin Gupthill.

BCCI lifts suspensions on Hardik Pandya, KL Rahul

- Committee of Administrators of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has lifted the suspension on Hardik Pandya and KL Rahul.

HOCKEY**Indian men's hockey team coach**

- Indian men's hockey coach Harendra Singh was sacked from the position and offered the task of helming the junior squad by the national federation.

CHESS**Tata Steel Chess**

- Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand scored a crushing in the 8th round to share the lead with Norway's Magnus Carlsen in the Tata Steel Chess tournament in Netherlands.

Delhi International chess Grandmaster Open

- D Gukesh became the India's youngest ever Grandmaster after he captured the title at the Delhi International chess Grandmaster Open.

TENNIS**ATP tour Tennis**

- Indian pair of Rohan Bopanna's and Divij Sharan have won maiden ATP tour Tennis title at the Tata Open Maharashtra in Pune.

International Tennis Federation's tournament

- India's Ankita Raina has won the International Tennis Federation's 25,000-dollar Women's tournament in Singapore.

Australian Open Tennis

- Australian Open, the first of the four Grand Slams of the season, begins in Melbourne.
- In the Women's Singles Final of the Australian Open at Melbourne, Osaka, seeded fourth, defeated eighth placed Czech Petra Kvitova, 7-6, 5-7, 6-4.
- Novak Djokovic defeated Rafael Nadal to win his 7th Australian Open Men's Singles title at Melbourne.
- Japan's Naomi Osaka has become the first player since 2001 to win back-to-back Grand Slam titles.
- Naomi Osaka became the first Asian player to achieve the world number one ranking.

BADMINTON

Premier Badminton League

- Bengaluru Raptors beat Mumbai Rockets to win their first ever Premier Badminton League title.

Malaysia Masters Badminton 2019

- Saina Nehwal crashed out of the Malaysia Masters 2019 after losing 16-21, 13-21 to Carolina Marin of Spain in the semifinal match at Kuala Lumpur.

Indonesia Masters badminton

- Indonesia Masters badminton tournament will begin in Jakarta.
- Saina Nehwal won her first Indonesia Masters title after three-time world champion Carolina Marin limped out of the final due to a leg injury.

KHELO INDIA GAMES

2nd edition of Khelo India Youth Games

- Maharashtra is all set to host the second edition of Khelo India Youth Games in Pune.

Khelo India Youth Games

- At the Khelo India Youth Games in Pune, ten year old Abhinav Shaw became the youngest gold medallist in shooting. He teamed up with Mehuli Ghosh to help West Bengal win the 10m air rifle mixed team event.
- The Khelo India Youth Games concluded in Pune with the hosts Maharashtra walking away with the overall trophy.
- Maharashtra finish top with 228 medals. Haryana second with 178 medals, and Delhi third with 136 medals.

Other Sports

80th National Table Tennis Championship

- The 80th National Table Tennis Championship began at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack. Odisha State Table Tennis Association (OSTTA) is hosting the championships after a gap of 18 years.

AFC Asian Cup

- India defeated Thailand 4-1 at the AFC Asian Cup campaign in Abu Dhabi.
- India crashed out of the AFC Asian Cup with a heartbreaking 0-1 defeat at the hands of Bahrain.

Senior National's Judo Championship

- Lady head constable Rani of 5th Indian Reserve Battalion of Himachal Pradesh Police won a Gold medal in the Senior National Women's Judo Championship at Visakhapatnam.

Women's National Boxing Championship

- Tamil Nadu's S. Kalaivani and Nikhat Zareen of Telangana entered the finals at the women's National Boxing Championship.

Egypt to host 2019 Africa Cup of Nations

- Egypt will host the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations Football. Egypt hosting the African football for the fifth time.

World record in indoor rowing

- Asian Cup gold medallist Shakil Ahmed set up a world record in indoor rowing by completing one lakh metres of simulated distance in 10 hours in above-40 year's category in Kolkata.

Mumbai Marathon

- Cosmas Lagat of Kenya and Worknesh Alemu of Ethiopia won the men's and women's crowns in the Tata Mumbai Marathon in Mumbai.

International Weightlifting Federation lifts ban on Sanjita Chanu

- At the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Sanjita won a gold in the women's 53kg category, but tested positive. The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) on January 23 revoked the ban imposed on India's Commonwealth Games gold medallist Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu.

India para-powerlifter banned for 4 years

- Indian para-powerlifter Vikramsingh Adhikari has been handed a four-year ban by the International Paralympic Committee for a second anti-doping violation.

Amateur Golf Championship

- India's Kartik Sharma won the New South Wales men's Amateur Golf Championship in Australia.

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