

1-13 December 2019
Current Affairs



1) President Ram Nath Kovind on 12 December 2019 gave his assent to the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, turning it into an Act. Under the act which 6 communities will be given Indian citizenship after residing in India for five years? - **Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian**

(According to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till 31 December 2014 and facing religious persecution there will not be treated as illegal immigrants but given Indian citizenship. The bill thus amended the Citizenship Act of 1955. The pertaining bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on 10 December and in the Rajya Sabha on 11 December 2019. Immediate beneficiaries of the Bill, according to Intelligence Bureau records, will be just over 30,000 people)



2) What is the name of the volcano in New Zealand whose sudden explosive eruption on 9 December 2019 claimed the life of at-least 16 persons and injured many? – **White Island Volcano**

(The White Island Volcano or Whakaari is situated in New Zealand's northeastern Bay of Plenty region. It suddenly erupted on 9 December 2019 when 47 tourists from several countries were on its island. Sixteen persons were killed while 28 suffered serious injuries. The last eruption in this highly active volcano took place in 2016)



3) What is the name of the new advanced spy satellite of India that was successfully launched by ISRO on 11 December 2019? - **RISAT-2BR1**

(ISRO on 11 December 2019 successfully launched and placed in orbit India's new spy satellite RISAT-2BR1 and nine foreign satellites through Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). This was ISRO's 50th satellite launch mission. The 628 kg radar imaging Earth observation satellite is meant for applications in various fields like agriculture, forestry and disaster management support. The foreign satellites include one each from Israel, Italy, Japan and six from the USA)



4) During December 2019 the trading licence of leading stock broker Karvy Stock Broking Ltd was suspended by NSE and BSE primarily due to which reason? – **Due to misuse of client securities by the firm**

(The National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) on 2 December 2019 suspended Karvy Stock Broking Ltd's trading licence for all segments due to non-compliance with exchange and Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) norms. Later BSE and Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) and MSEI also suspended the licence of the brokerage firm. It is worth mentioning that SEBI in its preliminary findings held that the Karvy had misused client securities and used it for other purposes)

5) Which premier training institute of the Indian Army will be closed as the Defence Ministry cleared the proposal for the same during December 2019? - **Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Gaya**

(The Ministry of Defence has cleared the Indian Army's proposal to disband the Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Gaya. Sources in the Army said it was getting increasingly unviable to run the OTA in Gaya due to fewer cadets. Established in 2011, OTA Gaya in Bihar is the third pre-commission training academy for the Army after OTA Chennai, and the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun)



6) Who was named TIME's 2019 Person of the Year, as was announced on 11 December 2019? - **Greta Thunberg**

(Swedish Climate activist Greta Thunberg has been named TIME's 2019 Person of the Year. The 16-year-old is the youngest individual ever named TIME's Person of the Year)

7) Who was appointed as the head of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST)? - [Sushil Modi](#)

(Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Sushil Modi has been appointed as the head of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST). The decision was made after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman decided to opt-out)

8) Which company became world's most valuable listed company with a market valuation of around \$1.9 trillion as this company's shares made its debut listing on 11 December 2019? - [Saudi Aramco](#)

(Saudi state-run oil behemoth Saudi Aramco became the world's most valuable listed company at \$1.9 trillion, nearly \$700 billion more than Apple Inc. This happened as company's shares jumped 10% on their trading debut on 11 December 2019. The company raised \$25.6 billion in the world's largest Initial Public Offering (IPO) beating Alibaba's \$25 billion listing in 2014)

9) Which actor was chosen as National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA's) brand ambassador as was announced on 10 December 2019? - [Suniel Shetty](#)

(Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty will be NADA's brand ambassador, as was announced by NADA on 10 December 2019)

10) On 2 December 2019 who became India's first woman pilot to have joined Naval operations in the Indian Navy? - [Sub Lieutenant Shivangi](#)

(Sub Lieutenant Shivangi on 2 December 2019 created history as she became India's first woman pilot in the Indian Navy. She joined as a pilot of Indian Navy in Kochi on 2 December 2019 after she was commissioned in the service a year ago)

11) Which smartphone maker became the first smartphone and consumer electronics company to cross \$10 billion in yearly revenues in India? - [Samsung India Electronics](#)

(Samsung India Electronics earned revenues of Rs. 73,086 crore in the financial year 2018-19, becoming the first smartphone and consumer

electronics company in the country to cross \$10 billion in revenues. As per regulatory filings, this is an almost 20% jump from Rs. 61,066 crore in 2017-18)



12) What is the name of the Chennai-based engineer who successfully located the debris of ISRO's Vikram lander? - [Shanmuga Subramanian](#)

(Shanmuga Subramanian is the name of the 33-year old Chennai-based engineer who was credited by NASA after he alerted them about the presence of the debris of the lander of Chandrayaan 2. Armed with just his laptop and an internet connection, he worked for up to seven hours every day in his Chennai apartment in his mission to locate the lander)



13) Who was elected the new Prime Minister of Finland on 8 December 2019 and at just 34 years of age became the youngest-ever PM of any country? - [Sanna Marin](#)

(Finland's parliament on 8 December 2019 approved the nomination of 34-year-old Social Democrat Sanna Marin as the world's youngest serving Prime Minister. Out of the parliament's 200 members, 99 voted in favour and 70 against her nomination. She took charge on 10 December 2019 replaced Antti Rinne, who had earlier resigned over his handling of a postal strike)

14) During December 2019 which country became the first Arab nation to assume the G20 presidency? - [Saudi Arabia](#)

(Saudi Arabia became the first Arab nation to assume the G20 presidency after it took over from Japan on 1 December 2019. It is worth mentioning that the 2020 G20 Summit will be held in Riyadh during November 2020)

15) Which entity became the first company to list its commercial papers borrowing? – **Aditya Birla Finance**

(Non-bank lender Aditya Birla Finance became the first company to list its commercial papers borrowing of Rs 100 crore on the bourses. The Kumarmangalam Birla-led company listed its CPs on NSE with a value date of 28 November 2019 and maturity date on 7 February 2020 on BSE and NSE. In October 2019 Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) asked exchanges to put in place a necessary framework for systems and procedures for listing of commercial papers)



2) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) chief Hemant Soren was on 29 December 2019 sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Jharkhand. This is overall histenure as state's Chief Minister? – **Second**

(Hemant Soren took over as the 11th Chief Minister of Jharkhand as he was administered oath of office by Governor Draupadi Murmi in a grand swearing-in ceremony in capital Ranchi. He replaced BJP's Raghuvar Das for his second tenure as Jharkhand's Chief Minister. In the election results announced on December 23, the JMM won 30 seats while its alliance partners, Congress and RJD, won 16 and one, respectively. The BJP won 25 seats in the state Assembly election)



16) What is the name of the woman spinner of Nepal who set the world record for the best bowling figures in T20I cricket? - **Anjali Chand**

(Nepal Women spinner Anjali Chand set the world record for the best bowling figures in T20I cricket (men and women) as she bowled 13 deliveries and took six wickets without conceding any run in a match against Maldives women's team on 2 December 2019)



3) Which iconic fighter plane of the Indian Air Force (IAF) was decommissioned during December 2019 after around 35 years of distinguished service? – **MiG-27**

(The MiG-27 fighter jets of the Indian Air Force, which were part of the Kargil war with Pakistan 20 years ago, was decommissioned from the service on 27 December 2019. It was in the service for around 35 years and it received water salute at a ceremony in its base at Jodhpur. The MiG-27 had earned the tag of 'Bahadur' from IAF pilots)

14-31 December 2019 Current Affairs



1) The Union Government on 30 December 2019 appointed General Bipin Rawat as India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), a new exclusive post. What is the main objective of appointing the CDS? – **To inject the much-needed synergy in planning, procurements, training and logistics among the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force**

(The CDS will be in direct contact with the Prime Minister on security issues and the chiefs of the Army, Navy and the Air Force would report to him. He would head the Department of Military Affairs and paid a salary equivalent to a service chief. The CDS will also act as the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister on tri-services matters)

4) The total tree and forest cover in India increased how much in the last 2 years as was revealed in the India State of Forest Report 2019 that was released on 30 December 2019? – **5,188 sq. km.**

(The total tree and forest cover in the country increased by 5,188 square kilometer in the last two years, said the India State of Forest Report 2019 which was released on 30 December 2019 Union Environment and Forest Minister Prakash Javadekar. According to the report there is an increase of 42.6 million tonnes in the carbon stock of the country as compared to the last assessment of 2017)



5) During December 2019 the Union Government constituted a 28-member committee to bring consistency among various government economic indices. Who is heading this committee? - [Pronab Sen](#)

(A broad-based "Standing Committee on Economic Statistics" was constituted by the Union Government under former Chief Statistician of India Pronab Sen that seeks to bring consistency among various government economic indices. It is worth mentioning that Sen has been vocal against the government's recent controversial decisions including effort to suppress the employment and consumption data)

6) According to information shared by Railways Minister Piyush Goyal during December 2019, Indian Railways achieved which landmark achievement pertaining to passenger safety? - [Zero passenger death in a financial year for the first time](#)

(Zero passenger death was witnessed in the current financial year, that is 2019-20, which is for the first time in the Indian Railways' 166-year-long history. This information was shared in report released by Piyush Goyal)



7) What is the name of the Indian Ambassador to Austria who was recalled by the Ministry of External Affairs for financial irregularities and misuse of government funds? - [Renu Pall](#)

(Renu Pall, an Indian Foreign Service officer of 1988 batch and the Indian Ambassador to Austria, was on 29 December 2019 recalled by the Ministry of External Affairs for financial irregularities and misuse of government funds. She allegedly rented an apartment for herself at Rs 15 lakh per month and incurred huge expenditure to the tune of crore of rupees on the government residence without the permission of the Ministry)



8) American House of Representatives on 18 December 2019 voted in favour of impeaching President Donald Trump. What are the two charges against President Trump? - [Abusing his power as president by pressuring Ukraine and obstructing the Congress](#)

(The US House of Representatives has voted to impeach President Donald Trump, accusing him of abusing his power as president by pressuring Ukraine to help him get re-elected in 2020. Trump had asked Ukraine to investigate his potential Democratic rival Joe Biden. Trump is also charged with obstructing Congress for preventing his administration from cooperating with the impeachment investigation)

9) President Donald Trump became the third US President to be impeached. Who are the other two Presidents to be impeached? - [Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton](#)

(Andrew Johnson was the first US President to be impeached in 1868 for violating the Tenure of Office Act by firing a cabinet secretary without Congress' consent. Bill Clinton was impeached in 1998 on perjury and obstruction of justice, with the investigation revolving around his affair with Monica Lewinsky. Both were acquitted by the Senate and remained in office)



10) The 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25) was held from 1 to 13 December 2019 in which city? - [Madrid, Spain](#)

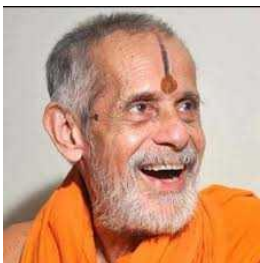
(The 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as the 25 UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) was held at Spanish capital Madrid from 1 to 13 December 2019. The conference was originally slated to be hosted in Brazil but later due to withdrawal by Brazil Chile stepped in as the new host. Chile also couldn't host

the event due to social unrest and then by mutual agreement between the UN, Chile, and Spain, the latter became the new host. The conference ended with a partial agreement to ask countries to come up with more ambitious targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions in order to meet the terms of the 2015 Paris accord. The UN thus termed the event not very successful)



11) The first meeting of the National Ganga Council (NGC) was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 14 December 2019. This meeting was held at which place? – [Kanpur](#)

(Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the first meeting of the National Ganga Council in Kanpur on 14 December 2019. The council was constituted in 2016 to oversee the cleaning of the Ganga and is supposed to meet at least once a year with the Prime Minister chairing the session. Kanpur was chosen for this meeting primarily because Kanpur stretch of the river is regarded as the most polluted)



12) Prime Minister Narendra Modi's spiritual guru Udupi's Pejavara Mutt head Vishwasha Teertha Swami passed away on 29 December 2019. Who succeeded him to this important religious post? – [Vishwaprashanna Teertha](#)

(Pejavara Mutt head Vishwasha Teertha Swami passed away on 29 December 2019 at the age of 88 after he was hospitalised on 20 December. He was the only seer to have ascended the holy Peetha five times since the system of transferring power between the eight mutts surrounding the Udupi Sri Krishna temple began in 1522. Mutt's junior pontiff Vishwaprashanna Teertha succeeded him)



13) During December 2019 who set a new record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman? - [Christina H Koch](#)

(NASA astronaut Christina H Koch on 28 December 2019 set a new record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman, after crossing the 288-day mark aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Koch broke the record previously set by former NASA astronaut and the first female Space Station Commander Peggy Whitson)



14) India's Koneru Humpy won the Women's World Rapid Chess Championship in Moscow on 29 December 2019 after defeating which player in the final? - [Lei Tingjie](#) of China

(Koneru Humpy defeated China's Lei Tingjie to win the Women's World Rapid Chess Championship. After the initial 12 rounds, she accumulated nine points which left her tied with Tingjie. The duo then played an Armageddon game to break the deadlock. Norway's Magnus Carlsen claimed the men's title)

15) What is the name of the common e-auction platform to enable the banks to online auction of attached assets transparently that was launched by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 28 December 2019? – [eBkray](#)

(eBkray is the name of an online platform to increase the transparency in auctioning of assets attached by banks. It was formally launched by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. This platform is equipped with property search features and navigational links to all public sector Banks' e-auction sites)

16) Which corporate entity on 18 December 2019 became the only the third firm in India to cross \$100 billion in market capitalization? - [HDFC Bank](#)

(HDFC Bank Ltd. on 18 December 2019 crossed the \$100 billion market capitalization, becoming only the third firm in the country to achieve this milestone. It is now in the league of Reliance Industries Ltd, which has a market cap of \$140.74

billion, and Tata Consultancy Services that has a market cap of \$114.60 billion)

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17) Which entity completed the acquisition of bankrupt Ruchi Soya for Rs. 4,350 crore on 18 December 2019? – [Patanjali Ayurved](#)

(Yoga guru Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved on 18 December 2019 made its first big acquisition when it paid Rs. 4,350 crore to take over soya food brand Nutrela-maker Ruchi Soya through an insolvency process. The acquisition will help Patanjali acquire edible oil plants as also soyabean oil brands such as Mahakosh and Ruchi Gold)

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18) Who was restored as the Executive Chairman of Tata Group by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) through its order on 18 December 2019? - [Cyrus Mistry](#)

(A two-judge bench of the NCLAT on 18 December 2019 restored former Tata group Chairman Cyrus Mistry as executive chairman of Tata Group. The tribunal has also held the appointment of Natarajan Chandrasekaran as executive chairman illegal. Mistry, who was the sixth chairman of Tata Sons, was ousted from the position in October 2016. He had taken over as the chairman in 2012 after Ratan Tata announced his retirement)

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19) What is the name of Russia's first regiment of hypersonic nuclear-capable missile system that was deployed on 27 December 2019? – ["Avangard"](#)

("Avangard" is the name of Russia's state-of-the-art intercontinental ballistic missile and can make sharp manoeuvres on its way to a target and which cannot be intercepted. The Avangard system, formally deployed on 27 December 2019, could penetrate both existing and any future missile defence systems)

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20) What is the name of the world's longest-serving ruler who was served a notice by the IMF to declare his assets before his nation receives more financial support? - [Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo](#)

(Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo is the name of Equatorial Guinea's President who is in power since August 1979 and hence is the world's longest-

serving ruler. He came to limelight as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) during December 2019 asked him to declare his assets before the oil-rich nation receives more financial support. He has been accused of misusing the Equatorial Guinea's oil wealth)

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