

1 January 2020 Current Affairs



1) From 1 January 2020 payments made through RuPay cards and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) will not attract Merchant Discount Rate (MDR). This rebate has been made available on which category of businesses? – **Businesses with annual turnover of over Rs. 50 crore**

(Payments made through homegrown RuPay cards and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) at businesses with annual turnover of over Rs. 50 crore will not attract Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) from 1 January 2020. Such businesses have been mandated to offer these modes of payment to customers. The discount rate is paid by the merchant to banks, card payment networks, and other financial intermediaries)

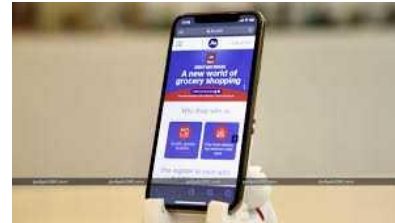


2) The passenger fares of Indian Railways were raised effective 1 January 2020. When was the last time these fares were increased? – **July 2014** (Train journeys will cost more from 1 January 2020, with Indian Railways increasing passenger fares across its network, excluding those for suburban trains. For passengers using ordinary non-air conditioned (AC) trains, fares have been hiked by one paise per kilometre, while fares for express non-AC trains have been increased by two paise per kilometre. Fares for AC class have been increased by four paise per kilometer. Passenger fares were last raised more than five years ago in July 2014)



3) Who took over as the new Chief of the Indian Army on 31 December 2019? – **Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane**

(General Manoj Mukund Naravane took over as the 28th Chief of the Indian Army on 31 December 2019. He succeeded General Bipin Rawat who was appointed India's first-ever Chief of Defence Staff a day earlier on 30 December. Gen. Naravane was commissioned into the Sikh Light Infantry Regiment in June 1980 and was till now serving as the vice-chief of the Indian Army)



4) What is the name of the new e-commerce venture of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) that is expected to take on e-commerce behemoths Amazon and Flipkart and pilot-project of which was launched in areas around Mumbai from December 2019? – **JioMart**

(JioMart is the name of the new e-commerce venture of Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) that made its debut during December 2019 in form of a pilot-project. The new venture has been initially launched a pilot for the customers in Navi Mumbai, Thane, and Kalyan, but will however, gradually expanded across India. JioMart aims to connect three crore offline retailers with over 20 crore households in the country)



5) Starting 1 January 2020 the Netherlands is officially dropping the name Holland as part of a tourism rebranding campaign. Why it is dropping this popular name? – **Because Holland refers to just 2 of the 12 provinces in the Netherlands**

(While the name Holland refers to just two of the 12 provinces in the Netherlands (North Holland and South Holland), but the two names are often used interchangeably to describe this small and beautiful European country. From 1 January 2020, companies, embassies, ministries and universities will only be able to refer to the country as 'the Netherlands')

Das on 1 January 2020. MANI is available on both Google Play and the Apple's App Store)

3 January 2020 Current Affairs



1) Union Government's ambitious "One Nation, One Ration Card" scheme was implemented in how many states from 1 January 2020? – **Twelve**

(The Union Government from 1 January 2020 implemented, the system of "One Nation, One Ration Card". Under this scheme, beneficiaries can buy subsidised food grains from ration shops in any part of the country. The initiative has come into effect initially in 12 states, and will gradually be implemented in the rest of the country by June 2020. These 12 states are - Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Kerala, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, and Jharkhand)



2) What is the name of the mobile app launched by RBI on 1 January 2020 to help visually-impaired people to identify the denomination of currency notes? – **MANI**

(MANI, which stands for Mobile Aided Note Identifier, is the name of a mobile app developed to help visually-impaired people identify the denomination of currency notes. The app can scan the notes using the phone's camera and give audio output in Hindi and English. It was launched by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta



3) What is the new name of Railway Protection Force (RPF), the security force of the Indian Railways? - **Indian Railway Protection Force Service – IRPFS**

(Indian Railway Protection Force Service (IRPFS) is the new name of Railway Protection Force (RPF). This change was done as a result of the grant of organized group A status (OGAS) to RPF in the light of Cabinet decision arising from a court order. RPF was established by Railway Protection Force Act, 1957, enacted by the Parliament for the better protection and security of railway property)



4) Bharat Bond ETF, that made its debut on stock exchanges on 2 January 2020, is a corporate bond ETF issued by which mutual fund entity? - **Edelweiss Mutual Fund**

(Bharat Bond ETF is the first-ever corporate bond ETF (exchange traded fund) that has been issued by Edelweiss Mutual Fund. Edelweiss AMC raised Rs 12,395 crore through this corporate bond issue that was made available for subscription from 12 to 20 December 2019. This ETF will invest only in AAA-rated bonds of public sector companies for two fixed-maturity periods of three years and 10 years)

5) Which state became the first to pass a resolution demanding rollback of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)? – **Kerala**

(Kerala has become the first state in India to pass a resolution demanding rollback of the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The Kerala assembly passed a resolution against the CAA on 31 December 2019. Kerala has already put on hold all the activities in connection with the National Population Register (NPR))

6) Which country became the world's first country to ban toxic sunscreen products in an effort to protect its coral reefs? – [Palau](#)

(The Pacific nation of Palau is the world's first country to ban sun creams that are harmful to corals and sea life. The ban restricts the sale and use of sunscreen products that contain ten different chemicals, including oxybenzone and octinoxate, which are harmful to corals and marine life. Stores selling them will face fines of \$1,000)

4 January 2020 Current Affairs



1) On 3 January 2020 Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 107th Indian Science Congress (ISC) that has been hosted in Bengaluru. What is the theme of this edition of ISC? - [Science & Technology : Rural Development](#)

(107th Indian Science Congress is hosted at University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK Campus, Bengaluru from 3 to 7 January 2020. The focal theme of this ISC is "Science & Technology : Rural Development". The event has attracted 15,000 delegates from the scientific and academic fraternity, and multifarious disciplines such as defense, government, corporates, and others. ISC is the most prestigious science event in India, first edition of which was held in 1914 in Kolkata)



2) What was the name of the head of Iran's Quds Force who was killed in a US attack on Baghdad's international airport on 3 January 2020, thus dramatically triggering tensions between the US and Iran and a surge in oil prices globally? – [Gen. Qasem Soleimani](#)

(Gen. Qasem Soleimani, a top Iranian general and the head of the elite Quds Force, was killed in an air

strike in the early hours of 3 January 2020. US fighter jets blew two vehicles near a cargo terminal of Baghdad's international airport. According to the Pentagon, the strike was aimed at deterring future Iranian attack plans. But the strike increased fresh fears of a conflict in the crude-rich region and also resulted in a surge in oil prices globally)

3) During December 2019, the UPI transactions crossed which milestone monthly figure for the first time ever? – [Rs. 2 lakh crore](#)

(The value of transactions made through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) doubled over last year to breach the Rs. 2 lakh-crore mark in December 2019, the first time since its inception. According to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCI) on 2 January 2020, the UPI-platform recorded more than 131 crore transactions during the month. NPCI is the manager and operator of UPI platform)



4) Which airline was named world's safest airline by reputed international airline rating agency AirlineRatings.com? – [Qantas](#)

(Australia's Qantas Airways was named safest airline in the world on a top-20 list published by AirlineRatings.com on 2 January 2020. It was followed by Air New Zealand and Taiwan's Eva Air. The agency took into account factors including audits by governing and industry bodies, crash and serious incident record, profitability and fleet age to come up with its rankings)

5) IRDAI gave its approval to Apollo Hospitals' exit from its health insurance venture Apollo Munich Health Insurance. Which entity is acquiring Apollo's 50.8% in the venture? – [HDFC](#)

(India's insurance regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) on 2 January 2020 approved Apollo group's sale of 50.8% stake in its health insurance venture Apollo Munich Health Insurance Co. Limited to Housing Development Finance Corp. Ltd (HDFC) for Rs. 1,336 crore. Out of the proceeds, around Rs. 1,036 crore will go to Apollo's promoters, while Apollo Hospitals will receive Rs. 300 crore. The acquired

stake will be merged in HDFC ERGO, HDFC's insurance subsidiary)



2) Adani Ports is acquiring 75% stake in which privately managed port on the east coast of India, as was disclosed on 3 January 2020? - [Krishnapatnam Port](#)

(Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) will be acquiring a controlling stake of 75% in Krishnapatnam Port Co. Ltd (KPCL) at an enterprise valuation of Rs.13,572 crore. APSEZ is India's largest private sector port developer, operator and the logistics arm of Gautam Adani's group. Krishnapatnam Port is situated in the Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh and is the second-largest private sector port in the east, after Mundra in the west)

3) Who was appointed the new head of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force, after its previous commander, Major General Qassem Soleimani, was killed in a US air strike on 3 January 2020? - [Maj. General Esmail Qaani](#)

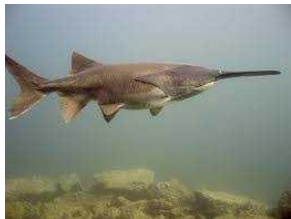
(Maj. General Esmail Qaani was appointed the new head of Iran's elite Quds Force. He has served as Soleimani's second-in-command)

4) According to the media reports of 4 January 2020, India's largest commercial bank SBI is planning to divest its 1% stake in NSE. SBI presently holds how much stake in NSE? - [5.19%](#)

(State Bank of India (SBI) holds 5.19% stake in the National Stock Exchange (NSE), India's largest stock-exchange entity. The sale is in-line with bank's plans to exit non-core businesses and also to raise capital for expanding operations)

5) The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is setting up a new division that will act as the nodal division within MEA for collaboration with foreign partners in 5G and AI. What is the name given to this new division? - [New, Emerging and Strategic Technologies - NEST](#)

(New, Emerging and Strategic Technologies (NEST) is the name of the new division that was announced by MEA during January 2020. The primary objective of NEST is to act as the nodal division within MEA for collaboration with foreign partners in 5G and artificial intelligence (AI))



6) Which important freshwater fish was declared extinct by scientists recently? - [Chinese paddlefish](#)

(The Chinese paddlefish, one of the world's biggest freshwater fish species, growing up to 7 metres long, has been declared extinct by scientists. The Chinese paddlefish is believed to have vanished between 2005 and 2010, with its last confirmed sighting coming in 2003)

5 January 2020 Current Affairs



1) During January 2020 the National Assembly of Nepal unanimously asked the Nepal government to intensify the ongoing diplomatic efforts to resolve the Nepal-India border dispute in the Kalapani region. According to Nepalese claim, India has shown which three areas under Indian territory even though they lie in Nepal? - [Limpiyadhura, Lipulek and Kalapani](#)

(Nepal had raised objections after India released its new political map in November last year following the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir. Nepal claimed that Limpiyadhura, Lipulek and Kalapani areas were shown under Indian territory even though they lie within the Nepalese territory. India has said the new map accurately depicts its sovereign territory and it has in no manner revised its boundary with Nepal)

6-7 January 2020 Current Affairs



1) What will be the default temperature of all room air conditioners in India, as was announced by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) on 6 January 2020? - [24 degrees Celsius](#)

(The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) on 6 January 2020 announced that all room air conditioners (ACs) should have a default temperature of 24 degrees Celsius. This means that when the room air conditioner is switched on, it will start at 24 degree Celsius. All brands and types of star-labelled ACs, which are rated from one star to five stars based on their energy efficiencies and manufactured, commercially purchased or sold in India, shall ensure default setting of temperature in the room air conditioners at 24 degrees Celsius, with effect from 1 January 2020)



2) Which New Zealand batsman hit six sixes in an over on 5 January 2020 thus becoming only the seventh batsman to achieve the feat in any cricket? - [Leo Carter](#)

(Canterbury batsman Leo Carter hit six sixes in an over during the T20 Super Smash tournament at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on 5 January 2020. He thus became the seventh batsman to achieve the feat in any format of cricket (both domestic and international). The unfortunate bowler on this occasion was left-arm spinner Anton Devcich, bowling for Northern Districts. The other batsmen to achieve the feat in T20s include India's Yuvraj Singh (2007), Worcestershire's Ross Whiteley (2017), Afghanistan's Hazratullah Zazai (2018). In other formats, both first-class and domestic limited-overs, Garry Sobers, Ravi Shastri and Herschelle Gibbs hold the record)

3) National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) launched The NSE Knowledge Hub, a unique Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered learning ecosystem, on 6 January 2020. This Knowledge Hub has been based in which city? - [New Delhi](#)

(The NSE Knowledge Hub has been developed to assist the banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector in enhancing skills for their employees and helping academic institutions in preparing future ready talent skilled for the financial services industry)



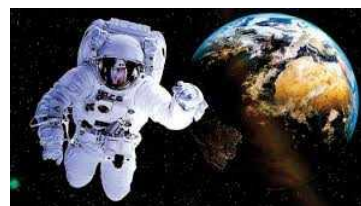
4) Which movie won Best Motion Picture-Drama at 77th Golden Globe Awards on 5 January 2020? - ['1917'](#)

(Sam Mendes-directed war film '1917', starring George MacKay and Dean-Charles Chapman among others was named the Best Motion Picture-Drama at 77th Golden Globe Awards. Sam Mendes also won Best Director award for '1917')

5) Who won the Best Actor and Best Actress awards at the 77 Golden Globe Awards? - [Joaquin Phoenix and Renée Zellweger](#)

(Joaquin Phoenix won Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama for 'Joker' at Golden Globe Awards. Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture- Drama went to Renée Zellweger for the Judy Garland biopic 'Judy')

8 January 2020 Current Affairs



1) ISRO's Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) will be built at which place, as was announced on 6 January 2020? - [Challakere in Karnataka](#)

(Karnataka's Challakere (in Chitradurga district) came to news as this place was chosen to build the state-of-the-art Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). To be constructed at a cost of Rs. 2,700 crore in three years, this facility will boast self-contained training facility for astronauts. The four astronaut candidates for the first Gaganyaan mission of 2022 are to train in Russia and country pays huge amount of money for this)



2) Retired Lieutenant General PN Hoon, who passed away on 6 January 2020, was associated with which Indian military operation to capture the Siachen Glacier? – **“Operation Meghdoot”**

“Operation Meghdoot” was the operation executed by the Indian armed forces to capture the Siachen Glacier in the Kashmir region on 13 April 1984. It was also the first assault launched in the highest battlefield in the world. It was led by Lieutenant General PremNathHoon (PN Hoon). This iconic operation resulted in Indian troops gaining control of the entire Siachen Glacier)



3) TrilokiNathChaturvedi (T.N. Chaturvedi), the former CAG of India and known to have taken the lid off the Bofors kickbacks issue, passed away at the age of 90. He was a former Governor of which state? – **Karnataka**

(TrilokiNath Chaturvedi held the office of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India from 1984 to 1989. It was during his tenure that the Bofors scam was unearthed. He was awarded India's second highest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan, in 1991. Chaturvedi became Governor of Karnataka in August 2002 and held the post till 2007)

4) Who was unanimously elected as the new Speaker of Jharkhand Assembly on 7 January 2020? – **Rabindra Nath Mahato**

(Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) MLA Rabindra Nath Mahato was on 7 January 2020 unanimously elected as the Jharkhand Assembly Speaker. He was first elected in 2005 from Nala seat but lost the subsequent elections before winning it again in the 2014 and 2019 polls)

5) What is the estimated GDP growth rate for India for year 2019-20, as was announced by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) in its advance estimates on 7 January 2020? – **5%**

(CSO has estimated that India's GDP growth rate for 2019-20 will be 5%. This figure is dramatically lower than growth rate for 2018-19 (6.8%). This estimate is based on the growth rate recorded in the first two quarters and is also in line with RBI's estimates. The main reason given for slow growth rate is deceleration in the manufacturing sector)

6) Which para-military force of the country is observing year 2020 as “Year of Mobility” for paying attention to the welfare and residential facilities of the troops? – **CISF**

(The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is observing as the "Year of Mobility" to have a special focus on creation of more residential units and implementation of various welfare measures for the troops. This was announced by CISF Director General Rajesh Ranjan on 6 January 2020)

9 January 2020 Current Affairs



1) The Union Cabinet on 8 January 2020 approved the promulgation of Mineral Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2020. It allows coal mining for all sectors other than which two sectors? – **Steel and Power**

(The Mineral Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 is aimed to attract investments in coal mining. It allows coal mining for any company present in sectors other than steel and power, and dispenses away with the captive end-use criteria. The ordinance also thus paves the way to put an end to state-run Coal India Ltd's (CIL's) monopoly)



2) World’s first ever jewellery exhibition on-board a cruise ship was inaugurated during January 2020 in Mumbai. This first-of-its-kind jewellery exhibition was hosted on which cruise ship? – [Jalesh Karnika](#)

(Jalesh Karnika, an Indian cruise ship of Essel Group’s Jalesh Cruise Co., hosted the world’s first ever jewellery exhibition on-board a cruise ship from 6 to 9 January 2020. This exhibition started at Mumbai Port Trust and the cruise ship cruised to Arabian Sea during the 4-day event. Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Shipping tied up for event to promote cruise tourism as well as jewellery business)



3) A Boeing 737 jet of Ukraine International Airlines crashed in Iran shortly after takeoff in the early hours of 8 January 2020 killing all 176 passengers onboard. The ill-fated plane was flying between which two cities? – [From Tehran to Kiev](#)

(Boeing 737 operated by the Ukraine International Airlines (UIA) went down in the vicinity of Parand, a city in RobatKarim county, shortly after it took-off from Tehran’s Imam Khomeini International Airport for Kiev’s Boryspil International Airport. It was a two-engine aircraft and was delivered in July 2016). Boeing is already mired in crisis following crashes in October 2018 and last March)



4) “Bharat Bandh”, the nationwide strike called by numerous trade unions, was observed on 8 January 2020. This was the 19th such nationwide strike

against government’s economic policies. When was the first such strike observed? – [1991](#)

(The first strike against neo-liberal economic policies took place on 29 November 1991. It was observed barely 5 months after the supposedly anti-labour policies by the then Finance Minister Manmohan Singh were announced. Since 2015 India has seen four such nationwide Bharat Bandhs - 2 September 2015, 2 September 2016, 8-9 January 2019 and now 8 January 2020)



5) Samsung backed STARLabs introduced what it calls the world’s first ‘Artificial Human’ at the world’s biggest tech show CES in Las Vegas (USA). What is the name given to this ‘Artificial Human’? – [NEON](#)

(NEON is described as a computationally created virtual being that looks and behaves like a real human, with the ability to show emotions and intelligence. NEONs are capable of conversing and sympathizing just like real humans, allowing us to bring AI where the world needs it the most)

10-13 January 2020 Current Affairs



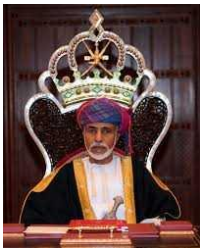
1) The Kolkata Port Trust, celebrating its 150th anniversary, was renamed after which noted personality on 11 January 2020 by Prime Minister NarendraModi? – [Dr.Syama Prasad Mookerjee](#)

(Prime Minister NarendraModi on 11 January 2020 announced that Kolkata Port Trust will be renamed after Dr.Syama Prasad Mookerjee. Dr.Mookerjee was a noted politician and academician who had founded BJP’s predecessor The Bharatiya Jana Sangha in 1951. He was earlier Industry Minister in Jawaharlal Nehru’s Cabinet)



2) During January 2020 the RBI directed which Bengaluru-based cooperative bank to stop doing business with immediate effect? - [Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank](#)

(The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a notice asking Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank, a co-operative in Bengaluru, to stop doing business with immediate effect, for alleged irregularities. The RBI, however, allowed the bank's savings and current account customers and depositors to withdraw cash up to Rs. 35,000 only till further notice. The bank has been in operation since 1999)



3) Oman's Sultan Qaboos bin Said, who had been ruling this oil-rich country since 1970, passed away on 10 January 2020. Who was named his successor? - [Haitham bin Tariq al-Said](#)

(Oman's Sultan Qaboos bin Said's cousin Haitham bin Tariq al-Said was announced as the successor following of the Sultan following his death on 10 January 2020. Qaboos, who had no children, had recommended Tariq's name in a secret letter, in case the family could not agree upon his successor. Qaboos became Sultan after removing his father in a palace coup with the aim of ending Oman's isolation and using its oil revenue for modernisation and development)



4) The 3rd edition of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) commenced from 10 January 2020 in which city? - [Guwahati](#)

(Guwahati (Assam) is hosting the 3rd edition of Khelo India Youth Games from 10 January to 22 January

2020. These games were formerly known as Khelo India School Games, the first edition of which was held in 2018 in New Delhi. These games are multi-disciplinary grass-root level games held in two categories - under-17 years school students and under-21 college students)



5) During January 2020 China started the operations of the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST), which is now world's largest single radio dish telescope. This state-of-the-art telescope has been established at which place? - [Guizhou](#)

(FAST is the name of China's new radio telescope which has double the collecting power than the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, that was the world's largest radio telescope till now. This huge telescope has been fixed in a natural basin called the Dawodang depression in Guizhou, Southwest China. It is not only the world's most sensitive listening device, but the world's largest filled-aperture radio-telescope)



6) Indian passport was ranked 84th in the world's most powerful passport index 2020, that has been based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The Indian visa facilitates visa-free entry to how many destinations worldwide? - [58](#)

(According to a report compiled by Henley & Partners based on the data from the IATA, Indians can get visa-free entry to 58 destinations worldwide. India's passport ranking dropped 2 places in 2020 to the 84th position. Japan continues to top the list of the world's most powerful passport as it fetches visa-free access to 191 countries and is followed by Singapore, Germany, Finland and Denmark. Afghanistan passport is the world's worst passport allowing visa-free entry into just 26 countries. It is followed by Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen)

14-18 January 2020 Current Affairs



1) Over 30,000 Bru refugees from Mizoram will be permanently settled in which northeastern state after a historic agreement was signed during January 2020? – [Tripura](#) (The Union Home Ministry on 16 January 2020 signed an agreement to end the 22-year-old Bru refugee crisis by facilitating their resettlement in Tripura. The refugees numbering over 34,000 belong to 5,300 families. They were forced to migrate from Mizoram following tribal unrest, back in 1997. This pact was signed by Chief Secretaries of Mizoram, Tripura and representatives of Bru tribes in the Ministry of Home Affairs' North Block office in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The Brus, spread across Tripura, Mizoram and parts of southern Assam, are the most populous tribe in Tripura. They are ethnically different from the Mizos, with their own distinct language and dialect)



2) GSAT-30, India's new communication satellite, was launched in the early hours of 17 January 2020 from Arianspace's French Guiana launch station. This satellite is intended to replace which old communication satellite? – [INSAT-4A](#)

(GSAT-30 is a communication satellite providing high-quality television, telecommunications and broadcasting services. With a mission life of over 15 years, GSAT-30 will provide DTH television services, connectivity to VSATs for ATM, stock exchange, television uplinking and teleport services, Digital Satellite News Gathering (DSNG) and e-governance applications. It replaces INSAT-4A a communication satellite with Ku and C-band transponders launched on 22 December 2005)



3) Who was appointed as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) by the Union Government on 14 January 2020? - [Michael Debabrata Patra](#)

(The Union Government on 14 January 2020 appointed Michael Debabrata Patra as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a term of three years. He is currently an Executive Director at the central bank and has a seat on the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). Patra's appointment comes six months after former Deputy Governor Viral Acharya's pre-mature resignation. RBI, led by Governor Shaktikanta Das, has three more Deputy Governors - B. P. Kanungo, N. S. Vishwanathan and Mahesh Kumar Jain)

4) Retail inflation in December 2019 rose to 7.35% as against 5.54% in November 2019 and 2.19% in December 2018. This is the highest inflation rate in India since - [July 2014](#)

(The December 2019 retail inflation is the highest since the retail inflation of 7.39% in July 2014. December 2019 retail inflation breached the upper end of the Reserve Bank of India's 2-6% target band for the first time since July 2016)

5) Reliance Jio became India's largest telecom operator by subscribers overtaking Vodafone Idea. Jio took how much time to achieve this milestone? – [3 years 3 month](#)

(Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio overtook Vodafone Idea in terms of number of subscribers to emerge as India's largest telecom operator. This was revealed in TRAI data ending November 2019, during which Jio had 36.99 crore subscribers, while Vodafone Idea and Airtel's subscriber base stood at 33.62 crore and 32.73 crore respectively. Thus Jio took just 3 years and 3 months since starting operations to achieve this milestone)



6) Iconic Indian football club MohunBagan on 16 January 2020 merged with two-time Indian Super League (ISL) winner ATK FC. Which business house owns ATK FC? - [RPSG Group](#)

(RPSG Group, which owns and runs ATK, acquired majority shares in MohunBagan. The newly owned entity emerging after this merger will compete in the 2020-21 ISL season and all other competitions organised by the All India Football Federation)



7) Ritu Nanda, daughter of late Bollywood actor-filmmaker Raj Kapoor and mother-in-law of Amitabh Bachchan's daughter Shweta Bachchan Nanda, passed away on 14 January 2020. An iconic insurance advisor, Nanda still holds which record in the field of life insurance? – [Selling 17,000 life insurance policies on a single day](#) (Ritu Nanda entered the Guinness Book of Records for selling 17,000 pension policies in a single day and this record is still held by her. She was the Head and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ritu Nanda Insurance Services (RNIS))

8) During January 2020 the World Health Organisation (WHO) confirmed the first case of the SARS virus going international. This virus was found in which country outside China for the first time? – [Thailand](#)

(The WHO on 13 January 2020 confirmed the first case in Thailand of a new virus from the family of the SARS virus. SARS is behind the pneumonia outbreak in China. This is the first case of the virus going international. A woman carrying the mystery virus travelled from China and was identified by officials and quarantined. Later SARS was also confirmed in Japan)

9) What is the name of the Indian-American filmmaker duo that earned a nomination in the Documentary Short Subject category at Oscars 2020? – [Smriti Mundhra and Sami Khan](#)

("St Louis Superman", a documentary film by two Indian-American filmmakers, Smriti Mundhra and Sami Khan, has earned a nomination in the Documentary Short Subject category at Oscars 2020. The film revolves around activist Bruce Franks Junior's journey to becoming a state lawmaker)

10) During January 2020 Microsoft stopped providing support to which operating system? - [Windows 7](#)

(Software behemoth Microsoft Inc. from 14 January 2020 stopped providing support to Windows 7 operating system. Windows 7 users will no longer receive important security updates and patches that keep their machines safe. Microsoft's Windows 7 operating system made its global debut on 22 October 2009)

19-21 January 2020 Current Affairs



1) The first-ever Sukhoi-30MKI fighter squadron of the Indian Air Force (IAF) in South India was unveiled on 20 January 2020. This squadron has been based at which AF station? – [Thanjavur](#)

(The induction ceremony of Sukhoi-30MKI fighter squadron at the Thanjavur Air Force Station was held on 20 January 2020 marking the first-ever squadron of this state-of-the-art fighter aircraft in South India. The decision to deploy the Su-30 MKI at Thanjavur was taken due to its strategic location. This squadron will keep in check China's fast-expanding strategic footprint in the Indian Ocean Region)



2) The 50th edition of the World Economic Forum (WEF) started from 20 January 2020 at Davos

(Switzerland). When the first meeting of this forum was held in 1971 what was it called? – [European Management Forum](#)

(European Management Forum (EMF) was the name earlier given to a forum of business leaders from Europe assembled to discuss business and management issues. This forum was founded by Klaus Schwab, a business professor at the University of Geneva. Forum's name was changed to World Economic Forum (WEF) in 1987 to broaden its vision to include providing a platform for resolving international conflicts)

3) What is the name of the village in Maharashtra's Parbhani district that came to news during January 2020 when state's Chief Minister described this village as leading mystic Sai Baba's birthplace thus angering the people of Shirdi? – [Pathri](#)

(Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray sparked a row when he called Pathri, a small village in Parbhani district as Sai Baba's birthplace. He also announced a grant of Rs 100 crore for development of facilities Sai's birthplace Pathri. But this angered the folks of Shirdi, with which the mystic has been usually associated. It was at Shirdi in Ahmednagar district where 19th-century saint Sai Baba, whose devotees cut across religious lines, spent much of his life. Later a day-long bandh was also observed in Shirdi)



4) JagatPrakashNadda (J.P. Nadda) on 20 January 2020 took over as the National President of BJP after serving as Working President since June 2019. He is overallNational President of the party? – [11th](#)

(J.P. Nadda became BJP's 11th National President on 20 January 2020. The 59-year-old former Health Minister has a graduate degree from Patna and LL.B from Himachal Pradesh University. He became BJP General Secretary in 2010 and RajyaSabha member in 2012. He was BJP in-charge of UP in 2019 general elections. It is worth mentioning that Late AtalBihari Vajpayee was the first National President of BJP after it came into existence in 1980)

5) Which Indian woman entrepreneur was conferred the Order of Australia, Australia's highest civilian honour, during January 2020? - [KiranMazumdar-Shaw](#)

(Biotechnology company Biocon founder KiranMazumdar-Shaw was on 18 January 2020 conferred with Australia's highest civilian honour, the Order of Australia, for her significant service to advancing the country's partnership with India)



6) Who was appointed as the new President of the mobile operations of South Korean electronics giant Samsung on 20 January 2020? – [Roh Tae-moon](#)

(Samsung appointed its youngest-ever President Roh Tae-moon, aged 51, as its new mobile chief. The reshuffle took place amid a series of court cases involving some of its top executives including leader Lee Jae-yong. As former mobile development head, Roh led the development of Samsung's Galaxy mobile devices)

22-24 January 2020 Current Affairs



1) The Andhra Pradesh Assembly on 20 January 2020 passed the bills to establish three capitals in the state. Which will be the three capitals of the state? - [Amaravathi, Visakhapatnam and Kurnool](#)

(The Andhra Pradesh Assembly passed the Capital Region Development Authority Repeal Bill 2020 and the AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of all Regions Bill 2020 on 20 January 2020. These bills are the first steps the current YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government took in decentralizing the state's capital between Amaravatti, Visakhapatnam and Kurnool and thus establishing three capitals)

2) Which city topped the list of Indian cities in terms of digital merchant payments in 2019, as was disclosed in a report by Razorpay? – [Bengaluru](#)

(Bengaluru topped the list of cities in terms of digital merchant payments in 2019, with 23.31% of the peer-to-merchant transactions. It was followed by Delhi with 10.44% share of such transactions. Hyderabad came in at third with 7.61% of transactions. Karnataka saw the highest adoption of digital payments at 26.64% followed by Maharashtra at 15.92%. This was disclosed in a report released by online payments entity Razonpay)



3) Katerina Sakellaropoulou was elected the first-ever woman Prime Minister of which European country? – [Greece](#)

(Katerina Sakellaropoulou has been elected as Greece's first female President by the ruling and opposition parties. She received the support of 261 MPs in the 300-member parliament. In 2018, she was elected as President of Greece's top administrative court, the Council of State, becoming the first female to be elected to the position. Katerina succeeded ProkopisPavlopoulos)



4) What is the name of the half-humanoid unveiled by ISRO on 22 January 2020 that will be soon sent into space? – ["Vyommitra"](#)

(Vyommitra, is the name of the half- humanoid robot that will soon be sent into space. The humanoid can operate switches, receive voice commands, respond via speech, can speak in two languages and can lip-sync to speech. It will be sent to space as a trial before Gaganyaan, which will be launched in 2022. Vyommitra has been designed at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram)

5) On 22 January 2020 China locked down which city by suspending all transport networks into and

out of the city as it is the epicenter of the new coronavirus (SARS virus)? – [Wuhan](#)

(Wuhan is the largest city of China's Hubei province and came to news as emerged as the epicenter of the SARS virus epidemic that gripped many Chinese parts in its grip. On 22 January 2020 Wuhan's airport and train stations were closed to outgoing passengers due to the outbreak that has killed 17 and infected nearly 600)

6) During January 2020 who were appointed as the new heads of three large public sector banks - Bank of Baroda, Canara bank and Bank of India? - [SanjivChadha, Lingam VenkatPrabhakar and Atanu Kumar Das](#)

(The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed SanjivChadha as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bank of Baroda, Lingam VenkatPrabhakar as MD & CEO of Canara Bank and Atanu Kumar Das as MD & CEO of Bank of India. Chadha was the Deputy Managing Director at State bank of India in charge of SBI Capital Markets and replaced P.S. Jayakumar. Prabhakar was the Executive Director of Punjab National Bank and he will be replacing RA Sankara Narayanan while Das was the ED at Bank of India who will be promoted to the post of MD& CEO in the same bank)



7) Zomato acquired which online food delivery platform during January 2020? – [Uber Eats](#)

(Zomato, the online food delivery and restaurant aggregator platform, on 21 January 2020 announced that it has acquired Uber Eats' business in India in an all-stock deal. Under the deal Uber Eats in India will discontinue operations and direct restaurants, delivery partners, and users of the Uber Eats apps to the Zomato platform. Uber Eats is the ride hailing company Uber's food delivery business. With the deal, Uber gets a 9.9% ownership in Zomato)

8) Who was appointed as the new India head of SoftBank on 22 January 2020? – [Manoj Kohli](#)

(Japan-based SoftBank Group appointed Manoj Kohli as its India head. Prior to the appointment, Kohli served as the Executive Chairman of

SoftBank's renewable energy firm SB Energy and has also been Airtel India's MD)

April, not enough to keep the company sustainable. Its only plant is located near Hyderabad)

25-26 January 2020 Current Affairs



Padma Vibhushan



Padma Bhushan



Padma Shri

1) On the occasion of the eve of the 71 Republic Day on 25 January 2020 the Union Government announced the list of the prestigious Padma Awards for 2020. How many total Padma Awards have been conferred this year? – [141](#)

(This year the President has approved conferment of 141 Padma Awards. These include 7 Padma Vibhushan, 16 Padma Bhushan and 118 Padma Shri Awards. Padma Vibhushan is the second highest civilian award after Bharat Ratna while Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri are third and fourth highest civilian awards respectively. The noted winners of Padma Vibhushan include former Cabinet Ministers Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj and George Fernandes (all posthumously) and boxer MC Mary Kom and Hindustani classical singer Chhannulal Mishra)



2) The Union Cabinet during January 2020 ordered the closure of which public sector undertaking engaged in production of ozone-depleting gas called hydrochlorofluorocarbon? – [Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited](#)

(On 22 January 2020 the Union Cabinet ordered the closure of Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited, a producer of the ozone-depleting gas called hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC-22) that is used as a refrigerant. Under the Montreal Protocol's provisions, Hindustan Fluorocarbons is allowed to produce only 282 tonnes of the gas per year from



3) Which PoS services provider became the first Indian unicorn of year 2020 after successfully raising a new round of funding? – [Pine Labs](#)

(Point-of-sales (PoS) services provider Pine Labs raised a new round of funding from the global card network major MasterCard pegged at \$100-150 million (Rs 713-1,069 crore) and thus emerged as the first Indian unicorn in 2020 with a valuation of \$1.5-1.6 billion. Unicorn is a privately held startup company valued at over \$1 billion)

4) Indian Railways' travelling ticket inspector SB Galande came to news recently due to which reason? – [He became the highest individual revenue earner for Central Railway in 2019](#)

(SB Galande, part of the Central Railway (CR) Flying Squad, caught 22,680 ticketless passengers in 2019 and thus collected Rs. 1.51-crore fine from them. With this, he became the highest individual revenue earner for Central Railway during 2019. Three other ticket collectors of the Central Railway also collected over Rs. 1 crore each in fines from ticketless commuters in 2019. Travelling Ticket Inspectors are authorised to collect fines from ticketless passengers on both local and long-distance)

5) Which team on 25 January 2020 became the first-ever team in Test cricket to score 500,000 runs? – [England](#)

(England became the first team in Test cricket to score 500,000 runs, achieving the feat during the fourth Test against South Africa. The single by Joe Root off Beuran Hendricks in the 53rd over of England's first innings on 25 January 2020 was the 500,000th run recorded for them in Tests. England took 1,022 Tests and over 143 years to reach the milestone)

27 January 2020 Current Affairs



1) Who was the Chief Guest for the 71st Republic Day Parade of India held on 26 January 2020? -

[Brazilian President Jair Messias Bolsonaro](#)

(Jair Messias Bolsonaro, the President of Brazil, was the Chief Guest for the 71st Republic Day Parade of India. He paid a state visit to India from 24 to 27 January 2020 and witnessed the Republic Day Parade at Rajpath accompanied by his Indian counterpart Ram Nath Kovind on 26 January 2020. Brazilian presidents have graced the Republic Day Parade in 1996 and 2004)



2) What important tradition associated with Republic Day ceremony at capital New Delhi was broken on the 71st Republic Day ceremony held on 26 January 2020? - **[The PM paid homage at the National War Memorial instead of Amar Jawan Jyoti](#)**

(In a break from tradition, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage at the National War Memorial instead of Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate on the 71st Republic Day. It is worth mentioning that former Prime Minister late Indira Gandhi had started the tradition of paying homage at the Amar Jawan Jyoti in 1972 that was constructed after the 1971 Indo-Pakistan War to commemorate the martyred and unknown soldiers of the Indian armed forces who died during the war. On the other hand the National War Memorial has been a brainchild of PM Modi and it was dedicated to the nation in February 2019)



3) Which woman army officer led an all-men contingent during the Republic Day Parade on 26 January 2020? - **[Captain Tania Shergill](#)**

(Captain Tania Shergill, who had recently created history by becoming the first woman Parade Adjutant to lead all-men contingents during the Army Day function, once again led an all-men contingent during the ceremonial Republic Day Parade at New Delhi's Rajpath. She led the Corps of Signals Contingent. Shergill is a fourth generation officer in the family and was commissioned into the Corps of Signals in 2017)



4) Five-time NBA champion and one of greatest American professional basketball player of all-times Kobe Bryant and his 13-year old daughter were killed when his private helicopter crashed along a hillside near Calabasas in California on 26 January 2020. Bryant was associated with which NBA team? - **[Los Angeles Lakers](#)**

(Playing for Los Angeles Lakers Kobe Bryant had contributed immensely to give his team 5 NBA titles. He was killed as his Sikorsky S-76B helicopter carrying one pilot, himself, his daughter Gianna and 6 other passengers crashed in California's Calabasas. Bryant and his daughter were on their way to Mamba Academy for basketball practice. He played for Los Angeles Lakers from 1996 to 2016 and also won two Olympic gold medals (2008 and 2012) with US national team)



5) Which state government on 26 January 2020 launched the pilot scheme of "Shiv Bhojan" scheme,

which is aimed at providing a meal to the poor for just Rs 10? – [Maharashtra](#)

(Maharashtra Government launched its much-anticipated “Shiv Bhojan” scheme as a pilot project. Under this scheme the poor will be provided a plate-full of meal at just Rs. 10. Thalies or lunch plates would be available to the people at designated centres/ canteens during a stipulated time in all the districts)

28-29 January 2020 Current Affairs



1) A tripartite agreement for bringing Assam’s Bodo community closer to the mainstream was signed in New Delhi on 27 January 2020. Which banned entity is part of this agreement? - [National Democratic Front of Bodoland – NDFB](#)

(The Union Home Ministry on 27 January 2020 signed a tripartite agreement with the banned National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) and Assam government. As a part of the agreement, the Bodos will now get political and economic aid from the Centre, and Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD) will be renamed Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR). However, NDFB’s long standing demand of a separate state or a Union territory for Bodos stands unmet)

2) Which state government on 27 January 2020 took decision to abolish the Legislative Council in the state? – [Andhra Pradesh](#)

(Andhra Pradesh cabinet on 27 January 2020 decided to abolish the Legislative Council which had referred the capital decentralisation bill to a Select Committee to review it. A Cabinet meeting held earlier discussed how to proceed on the three capital bills stuck in the Legislative Council. TDP, which is in majority in the Legislative Council, had blocked the bills from passing. It is worth mentioning that apart from Andhra Pradesh, 5 other states in India also have bicameral legislatures – Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh. This means these states have two houses

in state assemblies – Upper House – Legislative Council and Lower House – Legislative Assembly)



3) From 27 January 2020 onwards malls and eateries in the non-residential areas of which city were allowed to stay open through the night? – [Mumbai](#)

(Maharashtra Government had cleared a proposal to allow malls and eateries in the non-residential areas of Mumbai city to stay open through the night with an expectation to generate jobs, drive tourism and boost the economy. The pertaining law came to effect from 27 January 2020 and a few eating joints like McDonald’s announced seven 24-hour outlets in the city. The exemption, however, will not apply to restaurants that serve alcohol, so pubs, bars and liquor shops will continue to follow a 1.30 am deadline)



4) Who was appointed India’s next Ambassador to the US on 28 January 2020? - [Taranjit Singh Sandhu](#)

(Taranjit Singh Sandhu, India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the US. Sandhu is succeeding Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who was appointed as India's next Foreign Secretary. Sandhu has been India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka since 2017 and has served as Deputy Chief of Mission at Embassy of India in Washington DC)



5) What is the name of the 18-year old female American singer who was nominated in six categories at the 62nd Grammy Awards and won five awards at the ceremony? - [Billie Eilish](#)

(18-year old Billie Eilish came to limelight as she won five of the six Grammys she was nominated at the 62nd Grammy Awards Ceremony held on 26 January 2020. She won the Record of the Year, Best Pop Vocal Album, Album of the Year, Best New Artist and Song of the Year. Billie lost to Lizzo in the Best Pop Solo Performance category)

30-31 January 2020 Current Affairs



1) The World Health Organization (WHO) on 30 January 2020 declared the coronavirus outbreak a public-health emergency of international concern. This is which instance of the WHO declaring an international public-health emergency? – **Sixth**

(The WHO gained the power to declare an international emergency in 2005 and since then it is just the sixth instance of declaration of a public-health emergency. The first was in 2009 in response to the H1N1 swine flu, followed by polio in 2014 and the Ebola and Zika virus outbreaks in 2016. It declared a public emergency for another Ebola outbreak in 2019)

2) How much GDP growth has been predicted for the upcoming year in the Economic Survey 2020 that was tabled in the Parliament on 31 January 2020? - **6-6.5%**

(Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 31 January 2020 tabled the Economic Survey 2020 prepared by Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian, which predicted a GDP growth of 6-6.5% for the upcoming financial year. The government has estimated growth at 5% for 2019-20, which would be lowest in 11 years)



3) Which Indian-origin executive was on 30 January 2020 named as the new Chief Executive Officer of American IT giant IBM? - **Arvind Krishna**

(Indian-origin technology executive Arvind Krishna has been elected Chief Executive Officer of American IT giant International Business Machines (IBM). He is currently IBM Senior Vice President for Cloud and Cognitive Software and will succeed Virginia Rometty. 57-year old Krishna had joined IBM in 1990 and has an undergraduate degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and a PhD in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Krishna joins the club of Indian CEOs of top global companies that includes Microsoft CEO SatyaNadella, Google and Alphabet CEO SundarPichai, MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga, PepsiCo's former CEO IndraNooyi and Adobe CEO ShantanuNarayan)



4) Who took over as the new Foreign Secretary on 29 January 2020? - **Harsh Vardhan Shringla**

(Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who last served as India's envoy to the US, took charge as new Foreign Secretary on 29 January 2020. He is the 33rd person to occupy this top foreign service post in India and replaced Vijay Gokhale who was occupying the post since January 2018. Shringla is a 1984 batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service)

5) Indian Railways has commissioned the country's first governmental waste to energy plant in which state during January 2020? – **Odisha**

(Indian Railways has commissioned country's first governmental waste to energy plant in Mancheswar Carriage Repair Workshop located at Bhubaneswar. This workshop falls under East Coast Railway. The waste to energy plant uses a patented technology called POLYCRACK, is first-of-its-kind in Indian Railways and fourth in India. It is world's first patented heterogeneous catalytic process which converts multiple feed stocks into hydrocarbon liquid fuels, gas, carbon and water)

6) Union Minister NitinGadkari unveiled NHAI's InvIT offer on 29 January 2020. What is the primary objective of this offer? – **To tap alternative funding**

sources to boost public spending in the roads sector

(The InvIT offer is part of govt. plans to tap alternative sources of financing to boost public spending in the roads and infrastructure sector amid declining private sector interest in the build, operate and transfer model, where the entire initial cost is borne by them. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will initially raise Rs. 15,000-20,000 crore through the maiden offer of InvIT)

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EDGE ACADEMY