



**BANK  
EXAMS  
Today**



**MONTHLY  
ONE-LINER  
GK DIGEST:  
DECEMBER**



**2019**

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## MONTHLY ONE-LINER GK DIGEST: DECEMBER 2019

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### 20th Hornbill Festival

- The Hornbill Festival is a **10 Day festival** (celebration held every year from 1 to 10 December) that began with the traditional blessing pronounced by Mongtei of Aniashu village by beating the traditional gong.
- **Nagaland Governor R N Ravi** was the chief host of the festival, while **Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio** was the host.

#### Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act

- **Uighurs are a predominantly Muslim Turkic ethnic group** originating from and culturally affiliated with the general region of Central and East Asia.
- The Uighurs have been recognized as **native to only one region, the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China.**

## Carnival of Aalst removed by UNESCO

- The officials found the "**recurrence of racist and anti-Semitic representations**" to be incompatible with its principles of **the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**.
- **The carnival of Aalst of Belgium**, was initially added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity in **2010**.

## Sikkim IFFCO

- Sikkim IFFCO will mainly operate in commercial crops that are **ginger, turmeric, large cardamom and buckwheat**.
- **Sikkim was the first fully organic state of the country** where all farming is carried out without the use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Nationwide Vaccination Drive

- The central government has announced to launch a **nationwide vaccination drive** to prevent eight diseases under **Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0** across the country.
- **Children under the age of 2 years and pregnant women** are covered under the government's flagship scheme against the eight vaccine preventable diseases.

### Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System

- The **Election Commission of India** has issued **new guidelines** for the system and process of **registration of political parties**.
- The new system is named as the "**Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System**" (PPRTMS).

### Anaemic Mukt Bharat(AMB) Strategy

- Harsh Vardhan Minister of health and Family welfare told in Lok Sabha that "**58.5% of children between the age of 6 month to 59 month are affected by Anaemia**".
- He also added that **53.1% of women between 15-49 years are also anaemic**.

### S&P reaffirmed India's rating at 'BBB-'

- Rating Agency **Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC (S&P)** has reaffirmed the Sovereign Credit Rating of India at 'BBB-'.  
• The economic slowdown is **cyclical rather than structural**.

## Women Help Desks in Police Stations

- Union Home Ministry has sanctioned a sum **Rs 100 crore from Nirbhaya Fund** for setting up **Women Help Desks in Police Stations**.
- **The Help Desk would consist of experts** like lawyers, psychologists and NGOs to facilitate legal aid, counselling, shelter, rehabilitation and training.

## India's Top 10 Police Stations for 2019

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has released the **list of 10 best performing Police stations from across the country**.
- Prime Minister while addressing the **DGPs during the 2015 Conference in Kutch, Gujarat** had directed to do grading and ranking of Police Stations.

## Global Migration Film Festival (GMFF)

- The festival was organised by the **International Organisation of Migrants (IOM)** and **Dhaka University Film Society** with the support of European Union.
- IOM was **established in 1951**, is the **UN migration agency** that works to ensure orderly and humane management of the migration issue.

## Government amended IEPFA Rules, 2016

- The government has amended the **Investor Education & Protection Fund (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules 2016**.
- The amended rules inter-alia provide for **digitisation with transparent and faceless processing of claims** by the Authority.

## Arms (Amendment) Bill 2019

- Increase the quantum of **penalties for violations of the law** to prison time between 10 years to life imprisonment. Illegal manufacturing, sale, conversion, repair, import/export would attract 7 years to life imprisonment.
- Increases the duration of the validity of arms license from **3 years to 5 years**.

## Govt authorised NHAI to set up Infrastructure Investment Trust

- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has given the proposal to set up the Infrastructure Investment Trust.
- The setting up of the **Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)** is approved as per Guidelines issued by **Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI**.

## Social Security Code Bill

- This bill was **approved by Union Cabinet last week** to pave the way for Universalisation of social security for 50 crore workers in the country.
- After this bill came in effect, organised sector employees will be relieved as their **Provident fund contribution will be decreased and return would increase**.

## AP govt to bring New Laws to Protect Women & Children

- The draft **DISHA ACT** contains the provision for harsher punishments, including death sentence, to those guilty of heinous crimes against women.
- Once the bill is passed, Andhra Pradesh will become the **first state in India** to have capital punishment for rape cases.

## 7th Economic Census

- The economic census is being carried out by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** that has a tie-up with **Common Service Centre**.
- For the **first time, the entire census is being conducted on an IT-based digital platform** to ensure high accuracy and data security.

## GEM Samvaad

- The outreach programme will facilitate **on-boarding of local sellers on the marketplace** and caters to specific requirements and procurement needs of buyers.
- **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**, commenced on 9th August **2016**, is the national public procurement portal that offers end to end solutions for all procurement needs of Central and State Government Departments, PSUs, autonomous institutions and local bodies.

## Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize

- Mr Antonio Costa announced the award while addressing the **2nd meeting of the National Committee for Commemoration of the 150th Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi** at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The **Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize** is initiated in order to help perpetuate Mahatma Gandhi's ideals inspired by his different thoughts and quotes.

## Afghanistan: First Country to Recognise Indian Pharmacopoeia

- The National Department of Regulation of Medicines and Health Products of the **Ministry of Public Health of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan** has formally recognised the **Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)**.
- The **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** ensures the quality of medicinal products, the legal and scientific standards in the form of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP).

## Govt norms for Fixation of Microdots Identifiers

- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has notified rules for **microdot identifiers on motor vehicles**.
- The microdots will be now affixed on the motor vehicles by spraying on the body and parts with microscopic dots to give a **unique identification for enhancing the security of vehicles**.

## 2nd Edition of Eat Right Mela

- The Union Minister launched '**The PURPLE Book**' a handbook on suitable diets for common medical conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, cancer, gut disorders etc.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan also launched **NetSCoFAN (Network for Scientific Co-operation for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition)** which is a network of research & academic institutions with heads/Directors and lead scientists of lead working in the area of food & nutrition.

## HRD Ministry Launched 5 Documents of Quality Mandate

- **The Higher Education Quality Improvement Programme Mandate** has been adopted by UGC to improve the quality in Higher Educational Institutions and equip the country's next-generation with vital skills, knowledge and ethics.
- UGC has developed a policy framework- "**MulyaPravah - Guidelines for Inculcation of Human values and Professionals Ethics in Higher Educational Institutions**" to inculcate the culture of human values and ethics in educational institutions.

## JioMart Launched by Reliance

- The web portal JioMart will initially cater to online shoppers in **Mumbai suburban** areas including **Navi Mumbai, Thane and Kalyan** with the tagline "**India ki nayi dukaan**".
- The company is signing up local merchants to offer them an **online-to-offline (O2O) marketplace**.

## 2nd Premium Ahmedabad-Mumbai Tejas Train

- All passengers travelling on IRCTC train will be provided with **rail travel insurance of up to Rs 25 lakh free of cost by IRCTC**.
- The travel insurance also includes **coverage of Rs 1 lakh against household theft and robbery during the travel period of the passengers**.

## BANKING

### November GST Revenue Collection

- The total revenue earned by Central Government and the State Governments after regular settlement in the month of **November, 2019 is Rs 44,742 crore for CGST and Rs 44,576 crore for the SGST**.
- Highest growth **during the year of 12% is seen in the GST collection** on domestic transactions.

### NCLT admits Bankruptcy Resolution for DHFL

- The **Mumbai bench of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** has admitted an RBI petition seeking bankruptcy resolution for **Dewan Housing Finance (DHFL)** under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016**.



- **Rule 5 (a) (i) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Rules, 2019** prescribes that **Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP)** can be initiated against **Financial Service Providers (FSP)** committing default upon an application made by the Appropriate Regulator.

### RBI 5th bi-monthly Monetary Policy

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a **six-member committee**, headed by **Governor Shaktikanta Das**.
- The RBI has reduced the repo rate by **135 basis points** between February and October 2019.

### RBI to amend regulatory Guidelines for UCBs

- The guidelines would primarily relate to **Exposure norms for single and group/interconnected borrower, promotion of financial inclusion and priority sector lending**.
- RBI has also decided to bring **UCBs with assets of 500 crore rupees and above under the Central Repository of Information on Large Credits - CRILC reporting framework** to strengthen off-site supervision and early recognition of financial distress.

### RBI tightens Norms for ARCs

- RBI has put **restriction on the ARCs from buying financial assets from its sponsor firms and lenders** (bank or financial institution) on a **bilateral basis**.
- **Asset Reconstruction Company (India) (Arcil)**, which is sponsored by State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB) and IDBI Bank is likely to be affected the most.

### Availability of NEFT on a 24x7 basis

- The existing discipline **for crediting beneficiary's account or returning the transaction** (within **2 hours of settlement** of the respective batch) to originating bank will continue.
- NEFT transactions would be done through **automated transactions initiated using 'Straight Through Processing (STP)' modes**, after the usual banking hours of banks.

### RBI imposed monetary Penalty on Andhra Bank

- Deficiencies in regulatory compliance of the bank were found in an examination of current accounts opened by **two entities in Andhra Bank**.
- RBI came to the conclusion of **imposing a monetary penalty after considering the reply from the bank** and personal hearing as to why penalty should not be imposed for non-compliance with the directions.

### Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019

- The amendment aims to boost investment in financially distressed sectors by removing bottlenecks and streamlining **the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP)**.
- In order to prevent frivolous triggering of CIRP, **additional thresholds for Financial Creditors** represented by an authorized representative has been introduced.

## Cabinet approves "Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme"

- The window for **one-time partial credit guarantee will remain open till 30th June, 2020** or till such date by which **Rs. 1 lakh crore assets** get purchased by the Banks, whichever is earlier.
- The Finance Minister announced in the **Budget 2019-20** that the Government will provide **one time six months' partial credit guarantee to Public Sector Banks for first loss up to 10%**, for purchase of high-rated pooled assets of financially sound NBFCs, amounting to a total of **Rs 1 lakh crore during the current financial year.**

## ADB signed \$490 million Loan Agreement with GOI

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Government of India (GOI) have signed a **\$490 million loan** on 20th Dec 19, for a **public-private partnership project to upgrade Indian state's roads.**
- Under the project, about **1600 kilometres of state highways and major district roads** will be upgraded from **single-lane to two-lane widths in Madhya Pradesh.**

## Cabinet approved Ordinance to Further Amend IBC

- The ordinance has been approved to help remove certain ambiguities in the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.**
- The amendment passed would **ring-fence successful bidders from criminal proceedings** against offences committed by previous promoters.

## Census of India 2021

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal for conducting **Census of India 2021** and updating **National Population Register (NPR).**
- The approval has been made for conducting the census 2021 at a cost of **Rs. 8,754.23 crore** and NPR at a cost of **Rs. 3,941.35 crore.**

## RBI introduced New Payment Instrument

- **The banks and existing non-bank PPI players** can issue the new payment instrument and would verify the credentials of customers.
- The verification process involves the **use of an OTP sent to the user's verified mobile number** and a digital **identification document** recognized by the **Department of Revenue.**

## CBIC issues SOP for GST Non-Filers

- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), **Ministry of Finance** has issued Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) to deal with **non-filers of GST returns.**
- After 15 days, if the return is not filed, the proper officer may proceed to **assess the tax liability of the person to the best of his judgment** and would issue an order under **Rule 100 of the CGST Rules in Form GST ASMT-13.**



### SEBI penalised Rating Agencies over lack of Proper Due Diligence in IL&FS

- The rating agencies were also **found guilty for not noticing disparities** in public disclosures made by IL&FS.
- In case of IL&FS ratings, SEBI has rejected the settlement applications on **3 July 2019** and didn't allow the CRAs to settle the lapses against a fee without admission of guilt.

### RBI Direction for Large Co-op Banks

- **Special Mention Account (SMA)** is an account which is exhibiting signs of incipient stress resulting in the borrower defaulting in timely servicing of her debt obligations, though the account has not yet been classified as NPA as per the extant RBI guidelines.
- The RBI has created a **Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC)** of commercial banks, all India financial institutions and certain non-banking financial companies.

### 20th Financial Stability Report: RBI

- The resilience of the banking sector has improved following **recapitalization of Public Sector Banks (PSBs)**.
- **Persistence of the risks** arising out of global or domestic economic uncertainties and geopolitical developments like a delay in the Brexit deal, trade tensions, whiff of an impending recession, oil-market disruptions and geopolitical risks.

### FinMin announced no MDR on Transactions through RuPay and UPI

- Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has said that **no Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)** will be applicable on transactions through **RuPay and UPI platforms**.
- She said that no MDR charge would be charged from **1st January 2020**.

### FinMin launched eBkay, a Common e-auction Platform

- The step has been taken for **transparent and clean online auction by banks** of an attached asset, for the improved realisation of value.
- **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** have attached assets worth over **Rs. 2.3 lakh crore over the last three financial years**.

### RBI buys Rs 10,000 crore Worth Long-Term Govt Securities in 2nd Special OMO

- It accepted **only Rs 8,501 crore worth of bids for the three securities** as against **Rs 38,551 crore bids it received in for four securities** in the OMO sale auction.
- The **cut-off yield** at which bids were accepted was **6.4874%**.

### CBIC paid Rs 1.12 lakh crore as IGST Refund to Exporters

- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (**CBIC**) has paid **IGST refunds worth over Rs 1.12 lakh crore to exporters till date**.

- The release also said that refunds of **only Rs 3,604 crore are pending with Customs** and about **3.4% of total exporters including "Star exporters"** have been identified as **Risky i.e. Red flagged**.

### INDEX AND RANKING

#### Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)

- **India ranked 9th** in the current levels of per capita emissions and energy use, showing that emissions are still comparatively low.
- The index is **jointly presented by German watch, New Climate Institute and Climate Action Network**.

#### SDG India Index 2019-20

- NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**), the United Nations in India, and the Global Green Growth Institute has developed the **SDG India Index and Dashboard 2019–20**.
- The dashboard will rank **all states and UTs** and, analyse their progress on **100 indicators drawn from MoSPI's National Indicator Framework**.

#### Good Governance Index

- The Good Governance Index (GGI) has been launched on the occasion of **Good Governance Day, which is observed on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
- The ranking was launched by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**.

#### Sustainable Development Goals Index 2019-20

- The SDG Index has been developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**), **the United Nations in India, and the Global Green Growth Institute**.
- The Index helps to track the progress across **all States and Union Territories on 100 indicators** to meet the SDGs target 2030.

### REPORTS

#### Global Gender Gap Report 2020

- The Global Gender Gap Report measures the **gender gap in political, economic and social spheres in a country**.
- The WEF Gender gap report points out that it will take **71 years to fully close the gender gap in the South Asia region** with the current rate of improvement in Gender Gap.

## IMF called for "Urgent Action" by India

- IMF has released its **annual review report on 23rd Dec 19** and pointed out that India is now in the midst of a significant slowdown and only quick policy actions can reverse the slowdown.
- The IMF has slashed its **Real GDP forecast for 2019 by nearly a full point to 6.1%** in October along with cutting the outlook for **2020 to 7.0%**.

## 'World Economic League Table 2020' Report

- The UK-based **Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR)** has released a report titled '**World Economic League Table 2020**'.
- According to the report, **India** will overtake Germany to become the **4th largest economy** in the world by the year **2026**.

## APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Soma Roy Burman	Controller General of Accounts (CGA)
Ursula von der Leyen	President of the European Commission
K Vijay Kumar	Senior Security Advisor in the Union Home Ministry
Girish Chandra Chaturvedi	National Stock Exchange Chairman
Sanna Marin	Prime Minister of Finland
Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane	Next Chief of Army Staff
Air Marshal RJ Duckworth	Senior Air Staff officer
Dr Monisha Ghosh	Chief Technology Officer at Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
Manuel Marrero Cruz	First Prime Minister of Cuba
Harsh Vardhan Shringla	Foreign Secretary Committee of the Cabinet
Hemant Soren	Chief Minister of Jharkhand
General Bipin Rawat	India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)
Amit Talgeri	Chief Risk Officer (CRO) of Axis Bank

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

Award	Awardee
Miss Universe for the year 2019	Zozibini Tunzi
Nobel Peace Prize 2019	Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed
FICCI India Sports Awards 2019	Railway Sports Promotion Board
British PM Boris Johnson	General Election in UK
Visitor's Award - for Research in Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences	Prof. Sibnath Deb
Visitor's Award- for Research in Physical Sciences	Prof. Sanjay Puri

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Visitor's Award - for Research in Biological Sciences	Prof. Asad Ullah Khan
Visitor's Award- for Technology Development	Dr Shaon Ray Chaudhuri
Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2018	Amitabh Bachchan
Sahitya Akademi Awards	
Name of the Person	Category
Sri V. Madhusoodanan Nair (Malayalam), Dr Phukan Ch. Basumatary (Bodo), Smt. Anuradha Patil (Marathi), Prof. Penna Madhusudan(Sanskrit), Dr Nand Kishore Acharya (Hindi) and Sri Nilba A. Khandekar (Konkani)	Poetry
Sri Bandi Narayana Swamy (Telugu), Sri L. Birmangol Singh (Beryl Thanga) (Manipuri), Sri Cho. Dharman (Tamil) and Dr JoysreeGoswami Mahanta (Assamese)	Novel
Sri Abdul Ahad Hajini (Kashmiri), Sri Tarun Kanti Mishra(Odia), Sri Kirpal Kazak (Punjabi), Sri Ram Swaroop Kisan (Rajasthani), Sri Kali Charan Hembram(Santali) and Sri Ishwar Moorjani (Sindhi)	Short Stories
Dr Chinmoy Guha(Bengali), Sri Om Sharma Jandriari (Dogri) and Sri Ratilal Borisagar (Gujarati)	Essays
Dr Shashi Tharoor (English) for his book 'An Era of Darkness'	Non-fiction
Dr Vijaya(Kannada)	Autobiography
Prof. Shafey Kidwai (Urdu)	Biography

### IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
1 <sup>st</sup> December 2019	World Aids Day	<b>Theme:</b> "Communities Make the Difference"
1 <sup>st</sup> December 2019	Indigenous Faith Day	--
3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2019	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	<b>Theme:</b> "Promoting the Participation of Persons with Disabilities and their leadership: Taking Action on the 2030 Development Agenda"
4 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Indian Navy Day	<b>Theme:</b> "Indian Navy - Silent, Strong and Swift".
7 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Armed Forces Flag Day	--
10 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	World Human Rights Day	<b>Theme:</b> "Youth Standing up for Human Rights"
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	National Energy Conservation	--

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	Day	
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Martyred Intellectuals Day	To commemorate the intellectuals killed by the Pakistan army on this day in 1971.
15 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	International Tea Day	To draw global attention to the impact of the global tea trade on workers and growers for price supports and fair trade.
16 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Vijay Diwas	To commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in 1971 war.
18 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Minorities Rights Day	By National Commission for minorities in India.
22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2019	National Mathematics Day	To raise awareness among people about the importance of mathematics for the development of humanity.
24 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	National Consumer Day	<b>Theme:</b> "alternate consumer grievance/dispute redressal".

### MOU'S SIGNED

#### First Tripartite MoA signed under FIDF

- The tripartite MoA was signed between i) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NARBAD) ii) The **department of Fisheries**, Government of India iii) **Government of Tamil Nadu**.
- A dedicated fund with a total of **Rs. 7522.48 crore** has been created namely FIDF for addressing the infrastructure requirement for the fisheries sector.

### GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

#### Mission Indradhanush 2.0

- Its target is to immunize children under the **age of 2 years and pregnant women**.
- The immunization drive under the Mission consists of **four rounds of immunization, which would be completed by March 2020**.

#### Ministry of MSME approved Changes in the Interest Subvention Scheme

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** is the nodal agency for the implementation of the scheme.
- The **"Interest Subvention Scheme for Incremental credit to MSMEs 2018"** will be implemented over **2018-19 and 2019-20**.
- The Scheme will be in operation for a period of **two financial years FY 2019 and FY 2020**.

## Atal Bhujal Yojana

- The **Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL)** is a **Central Sector Scheme** with a total outlay of **Rs.6000 crore**.
- The scheme will be implemented over a **period of 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25)**.

## DEFENCE

### Exercise MITRA SHAKTI- 2019

- The Exercise MITRA SHAKTI **aimed** at enhancing interoperability and operational efficiency amongst the armies of both India and Sri Lanka.
- The **objective of the exercise** is to build and promote positive relations between armies of India and Sri Lanka.

### 1st Woman Pilot of Indian Navy

- Two other trainee officers of the **7th Dornier Conversion Course (DOCC)** also qualified as **Dornier pilots along with Shivangi** and were awarded at the **coveted golden Wings** ceremony held at **INS Garuda**.
- The **award of the Wings** marks the culmination of one year of flying training at the **Air Force Academy (AFA)**.

### Exercise INDRA 2019

- The exercise is being conducted to imbibe the best practices from each other and jointly conducting drills to defeat the scourge of terror as per the **United Nation mandate**.
- The exercise will consist of a **five day training phase** consisting of a comprehensive training curriculum.

### Exercise Hand-In-Hand-2019

- This is a 14 days long joint training exercise and the **People's Liberations Army (PLA) contingent** from the Tibet Military Command and **Indian Army contingent** will participate in the exercise.
- The **theme** of the exercise is "**counter-terrorism**" under United Nations mandate.

### NAVARMS-19

- **NAVARMS** is the **only international seminar and exhibition on Naval Weapon Systems** conducted in the country to share the views and concerns of stakeholders at a common platform.
- The **past three editions of NAVARMS were organised in 2007, 2010 and 2013** with active participation of Ministry of Defence, DRDO, Industry and the users.



## Pakistan at Risk of being Black Listed By FATF

- Global Watchdog for terror financing **FATF (Financial Action Task Force)** has sent **150 questions to Pakistan** seeking more clarifications from Pakistan on **actions taken against madrassas**.
- The FATF has told Pakistan to take action against **madrassas belonging to proscribed outfits**, with report submitting **deadline by 8th January**.

## DefExpo India- 2020

- The 11th biennial edition of DefExpo India- 2020 is scheduled to be held in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh** from 5th to 8th Feb 2020.
- The **theme of the DefExpo is 'India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub'** and focus will be on **'Digital Transformation of Defence'**.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Prithvi-II Missile

- The user trial of the Prithvi-II missile was conducted from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the **Integrated Test Range at Chandipur**.
- The missile weighs about 4,600 kg and is capable of carrying **500 to 1000 kilograms of warheads**.

### TRAI revamped Mobile Number Portability Rules

- **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has revamped **Mobile Number portability (MNP) rules**.
- According to present rules, telecom operators and MNP service providers are required to process the request of subscribers to change their telecom operator without changing their mobile number **within 4 days in the same circle**.

### RISAT-2BR1

- The PSLV (**PSLV-C48**), launched its fiftieth flight **RISAT-2BR1** along with nine commercial satellites from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota**.
- The **RISAT-2BR1** was successfully injected into the orbit of 576km after 16 minutes and 23 seconds of its launch from the First LaunchPad.

### Haryana Police to use Trakea in Forensic Reports

- Haryana Police has adopted a **unique barcoding software named Trakea**, to ensure **forensic reports** of the criminal investigation system are presented without being tampered in the courts of law.
- The software was originally designed by a **prisoner Amit Mishra**, a software engineer by profession who was lodged in **Bhondsi jail** for 13 months.

## National Broadband Mission

- Develop a **Broadband Readiness Index (BRI)** to measure the availability of digital communications infrastructure.
- Investment of **\$ 100 billion (Rs 7 Lakh Crore)** from stakeholders including Rs 70,000 crore from **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**.

## Pinaka Missile System

- **The Pinaka MK-II Rocket** is modified as a **missile** by integrating with the Navigation, Control and Guidance System to improve the end accuracy and enhance the range.
- The Navigation system of the Pinaka missile is also aided by the **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)**.

## Ethiopia Launched its First Satellite

- The satellite will operate from space at about **700km above the Earth surface** and will provide a fuller picture of the country's agriculture, forestry and mining resources and **improve responses to flooding and other disasters**.
- The ETRSS-1 will be the **99th satellite to travel in space in 2019**.

## QRSAM Missile Successfully Test Fired

- The QRSAM missile system is **indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO**.
- The **objective** of the missile is to operate in the deployment mode intercepting the target mid-air.

## China's Largest Carrier Rocket: Long March-5

- **The first attempt was made in 2016**, failed to reach the speed required for the early phase of the flight and so was the **second attempt** that also failed when a turbopump that injected fuel into the combustion chamber malfunctioned.
- The rocket was launched carrying the **Shijian-20 technological experiment satellite** which is the heaviest and **most advanced communications satellite of the country**.

## SPORTS

### India won the 3-Nation Hockey Tournament

- **India lost to Australia** 1-2 in the final game but still won due to **highest points** (7 points from 4 matches).
- India was ahead of the hosts, Australia on **goal difference**.
- **New Zealand** with 3 points scored **third position** in the tournament.

## WADA bans Russia from International Sporting Events

- The ruling means that if Russian athletes can demonstrate that they were **not part of state-sponsored system of doping**, they can still be allowed to compete at the Tokyo Olympics as **neutrals**.
- Russia's anti-doping agency can appeal the decision to the **Court of Arbitration for Sport within 21 days**.

## FIH New World Ranking System for 2020

- The **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** unveiled a new world ranking system for **2020** in **Lausanne, Switzerland**.
- The new ranking will be **match-based instead of tournament-based** calculation, for a better reflection of current performances.

## 6th Qatar International Cup

- Saikhom Mirabai Chanu's performance was way below her personal best of 201kg which she lifted during this year's **World Championships in Thailand**.
- She has won the gold medal at the Commonwealth Games 2018 by **lifting a total of 196 kg, 86 kg in Snatch and 110 kg** in Clean and Jerk.

## India won the ODI Series

- **Virat Kohli** looks set to be the **highest runscorer of 2019 (2455 runs)** in all formats (Tests, ODI and T20I) combined, for the **4th year in a row**.
- **Rohit Sharma** had broken the record for scoring the **most number of runs as an opening batsman (2442 runs)** in a calendar year, a 22 year long period of former Sri Lanka's batsman Sanath Jayasuria in 1997.

## ICC ODI Ranking

- **Batsman Lokesh Rahul** has been lifted by 17 ranks to 71st place while **Shreyas Iyer** jumped from 104 ranks to 81st rank.
- **Indian Women team** remains to hold **4th position in the Women T20 Team Ranking**.

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

### First India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting

- The delegation was led by the **Defence Minister of India, Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar**, along with the Foreign Affairs Minister of Japan, **MOTEGI Toshimitsu**, and Minister of Defense of Japan, **KONO Taro**.
- India has a similar ministerial level 2+2' dialogue with the **US** also.

## 3rd National Public Procurement Conclave

- The conclave is jointly organised by the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** in association with **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**.
- It is focused to make **improvements in the GeM platform** particularly in the process of accessing, on-boarding and navigating through the platform.

## 4th India Water Impact Summit

- The Summit was organised by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India and the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga)** led by IIT Kanpur from 5th-7th Dec 19.
- The Summit was **focused on:** a) Integrated Water Resource Management in rural and urban areas b) Restoring Ground Water levels and other water related issues.

## UNFCCC COP25

- The **25th session of Conference of Parties under the UN Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC COP25)** began in **Madrid, Spain**.
- **Chile** was the **original host** of UNFCCC COP25 and it cancelled the **original hosting agreement for COP 25** on 30th October 2019.

## 36th International Geological Congress

- International Geological Congress (**IGC**) is described as the **Olympics of Geosciences**, which is a global geoscientific event held **once in four years**.
- The **event is being funded by** the **Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Earth Sciences** with the support of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and the national Science Academies of Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

## Steeling India 2019

- The event was organised by the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** with the **theme 'Driving Metal Intensity in key Sectors'**.
- The Minister said that there is a huge potential for **increasing steel intensity** in key user sectors like housing, infrastructure, automobiles, railways and defence etc. Govt. schemes like Har Ghar Jal Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana etc. will drive the **consumption of steel in rural areas**.

## 38th GST Council Meeting

- The GST Council had earlier asked the state governments about their **views on reviewing rates and 21 states voted in favour of a uniform rate** during the Voting.
- The GST council for the **first time** after the launch of GST has taken a decision through the **voting route instead of consensus-based decision making**.

### Nagpur Resolution Adopted by GOI

- The conference was organised by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra and the Maharashtra State Commission for Right to Public Services.
- In earlier occasions, the government of India has adopted the **Shillong Declaration and Jammu Resolution for Good Governance**.

