

Monthly One Liner Current Affairs January 2019

Financial One Liner Current Affairs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in January, 2019 allowed lenders to recast loans of stressed micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) provided that the total fund and non-fund based exposure to such borrowers is up to Rs 25 crore.
- Paytm Payments Bank, which was asked to halt on-boarding of new customers six months ago, is learnt to have resumed the process for signing up new customers after receiving the go-ahead by the Reserve Bank of India.
- The Reserve Bank In January, 2019 set up an expert committee under former Sebi chairman U K Sinha to suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSME sector.
- The government on In January, 2019 approved the merger of Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with Bank of Baroda (BoB) to make it a globally competitive lender.
- The government In January, 2019 decided to provide 3 per cent interest subsidy to merchant exporters, entailing an expenditure of Rs 600 crore, to enhance liquidity with a view to boosting outbound shipments.
- The decision was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.
- The printing of Rs 2000 banknote, introduced post-demonetisation in November 2016, has been reduced to the "minimum" by the Reserve Bank, a top finance ministry official said In January, 2019.
- HDFC Mutual Fund has piped ICICI Prudential MF to become the country's largest asset management company after a gap of over two years.
- Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has allowed custodial services in the commodity derivatives market.
- The government on January 3, 2019 said that coal stock and coal supply to power plants has been increased to meet the energy demands in the country.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 4, 2019 inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 12 development projects worth Rs 1,500 crore in Manipur.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended its customer protection framework in cases of payment frauds or unauthorised transactions to the users of authorised prepaid payment instruments (PPIs).
- A special court in Mumbai declared absconding liquor baron Vijay Mallya a fugitive economic offender (FEO) on a plea of the Enforcement Directorate. Mallya has become the first businessman to be declared EFO under the provisions of the new Fugitive Economic Offenders Act which came into existence in August last year.
- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for cross-border merger of Reliance Holding USA Inc, a wholly owned, step-down subsidiary of RIL with Reliance Energy Generation and Distribution Ltd (REGDL), the company said in a regulatory filing in January, 2019.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of revival of six irrigation projects, including North Koel (Mandal Dam) project amounting to 2,500 crore rupees and Kanhar Stone Pipeline irrigation system.
- The Centre has amalgamated three Regional Rural Banks (RRB) -- Punjab Gramin Bank, Malwa Gramin Bank and Sutej Gramin Bank -- into a single RRB with effect from January 1.
- United Bank of India and Srei Equipment Finance have entered into an agreement for financing the MSME and agriculture sectors.
- Government has recently changed interest rates on some selected small scheme savings scheme. According to the revised rates, investment in time deposits of one-year, two-year and three-year maturity periods will now fetch interest at the rate of 7 per cent in the quarter ending March 31, 2019.
- ICICI Bank has announced that it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Small Business FinCredit India (SBFC), a NBFC (Non-Banking Finance Company) for entrepreneurs, to jointly provide credit to MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises).

- **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid foundation of six road projects worth 6,000 crore rupees in border areas of Jodhpur** in January, 2019.
- **Nepal has asked the RBI to declare newly circulated Indian currency notes of denominations higher than Rs 100 legal tender in the country**, according to media report in January, 2019.
- **India's GDP (gross domestic product) is estimated to grow at 7.2 per cent in 2018-19 compared to 6.7 per cent attained during the previous fiscal**, official data showed in January, 2019.
- **Bandhan Bank Ltd will buy mortgage provider Gruh Finance Ltd in a share-swap deal to build up its housing loan portfolio**, the companies said in January, 2019.
- **Kerala is setting up the country's largest Integrated Startup Complex, which will house a Maker Village, Bionest, and BRINC**, the country's first international accelerator for Hardware startups, among other facilities.
- Reserve Bank of India Tuesday released **guidelines on tokenisation for various card transactions, including from debit and credit cards**. Tokenisation, which aims at improving safety and security of the payment system, refers to replacement of actual card details with an unique alternate code called the 'token', which shall be unique for a combination of card, token requestor and identified device.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a High-Level Committee on Deepening of Digital Payments to encourage digitisation of payments and enhance financial inclusion**. The five-member committee headed by UIDAI's former Chairman Nandan Nilekani will include RBI's former Deputy Governor Mr. H.R. Khan and Former Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology, Mrs. Aruna Sharma among others.
- **India took over the operations of a part of Chabahar Port in Iran during the Chabahar Trilateral Agreement meeting held on December 24, 2018 in Iran**.
- **India's GDP is expected to grow at 7.3 per cent in the fiscal year 2018-19, and 7.5 per cent in the following two years**, the World Bank has forecast, attributing it to an upswing in consumption and investment.
- **Andhra Pradesh government today signed an MoU with Adani Group to build data center parks up to 5 gigawatt (gw) capacities in and around Visakhapatnam using 100 percent renewable energy over the next 20 years**.
- **India will likely be larger than the US in the same time period while Indonesia will break into the top 5 economies**, according to Standard Chartered report.
- **Market regulator Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a "Research Advisory" committee** that will assist in formulating policy to undertake research relevant for development and regulation of capital markets. The committee, **headed by Sankar De**.
- In a major relief to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), **the GST Council chaired by finance minister Arun Jaitley on January 10, 2019 doubled the GST exemption limit for companies in the sector to those with an annual turnover of Rs 40 lakh from the current Rs 20 lakh**. For North East and hilly states, the limit has been increased to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Wednesday made some changes in the **Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS)** by including charitable institutions and the central government, among other.
- **Sri Lanka's Central Bank on Wednesday said that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has agreed to provide USD 400 million under a swap arrangement to boost the island nation's reserves**.
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 3 crore on Citibank India** for not complying with directions regarding the 'fit-and-proper criteria' for directors of the bank.
- **Jana Small Finance Bank has launched a current account with auto-sweep facility**.
- **YES BANK**, India's fourth largest private sector Bank, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Kia Motors**, world's eighth largest automaker, **to enter into a strategic financing partnership, making it one of the first Indian banks to become their preferred financier**.
- **RBL Bank has signed an MoU with Nasscom to provide customised credit solutions to micro, small and medium enterprises**.
- **National Stock Exchange today said Ashok Chawla has resigned as chairman with immediate effect in light of recent legal developments**.
- **Yes Bank**, India's fourth largest private sector bank, Saturday said it has **appointed Brahm Dutt as non-executive part-time chairman to the board**.

- With a view to strengthen the gems and jewellery industry, **the Government has taken a number of steps, including the establishment of Special Notified Zone (SNZ) and setting up of common facility centres for gems and jewellery sector.**
- **Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the 25th edition of Partnership Summit 2019 in Mumbai today.**
- **The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Bajaj Finance for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.**
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is working on a set of rules that would link remuneration of banks CEOs to parameters like balance sheet size of a bank, loan delinquency, profits and governance record.**
- **The Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Sushil Modi will be heading the seven-member group of ministers (GoM) that will look into revenue shortfall being faced by the states after the GST roll-out and suggest steps for augmenting collections.**
- **The Centre has allocated an additional 6 thousand 84 crore rupees to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, MGNREGA. With this the total allocation for the scheme has reached an all time high of 61 thousand 84 Crore rupees.**
- **The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2018-19 (Series-V) opened on January 15, 2019 for subion. The issue price of the Bond during this subion period will be three thousand two hundred and fourteen rupees per gram with the settlement date of January 22, 2019.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 15, 2019 visited Odisha and launched several development projects worth over Rs 1,500 crore at Balangir, Odisha.**
- **The Union Government on January 14, 2019 launched the 'Womaniya on Government e Marketplace (GeM)', an initiative to enable women entrepreneurs and Women Self-Help Groups (WSHGs) to sell handicrafts, handloom, accessories, and other products directly to Government departments and institutions.**
- **UKIBC had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Govt of Maharashtra. This MOU is about increasing the connections between UK businesses and Maharashtra that deliver investment, jobs, and economic growth for both.**
- **The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on January 16, 2019 approved the recapitalisation of the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank).**
- **The Cabinet also approved an increase in the authorized capital of EXIM Bank from Rs 10,000 crore to Rs. 20,000 crore.**
- **The Ministry of Finance on January 15, 2019 constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) for boosting the Real Estate Sector under the GST regime.**
- **A consortium of banks led by State Bank of India has agreed to provide finance for Nagpur-Mumbai 'SamruddhiCorridor' expressway project. Bhushan Gagrani, Principal Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office said, SBI has agreed to lend the highest amount, 8,500 crore rupees. Other lenders include Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of Maharashtra as well as the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India.**
- **The 9th International Micro irrigation conference began on January 16, 2019 in Aurangabad, Maharashtra.**
- **In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Kamal Nath launched the Rs 50000-crore farm debt-waiver scheme named 'Jai Kisan Rin Mukti Yojana'.**
- **In an attempt to go one step ahead in ease of doing business the overseas borrowing norms have been simplified.**
- **The Reserve Bank of India has rationalised the overseas borrowing norms allowing a uniform borrowing limit of Rs 750 million a year across tenors.**
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a Rs 1-crore penalty on state-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) for non-compliance of Know Your Customer guidelines and fraud-classification norms.**
- **Union Minister for Commerce and Industries, Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the 10th edition of the India Rubber Expo - 2019 in Mumbai on January 17, 2019.**
- **The Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Protsahan Yojana, PMRPY has crossed the milestone of one crore beneficiaries as on the 14th of this month.**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi **inaugurated the ninth edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019 on January 18, 2019**. The summit is being held at the Mahatma Mandir, **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- **India and Japan-India Cooperative Actions (JICA)** on January 18, 2019 **signed the loan agreements under the Japanese Official Development Assistance Loan Program**.
- ***BHEL and LIBCOIN in dialogue to build India's first lithium ion factory***
- **The 2-day Agri Vision 2019 Conference on envisioning Agro solutions for Smart and Sustainable Agriculture**, which was inaugurated by Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu
- The **Reserve Bank** has approved the **appointment of V Vaidyanathan as MD and CEO of IDFC First Bank** for a period of three years, according to a regulatory filing.
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in January, 2019 initiated two quarterly surveys** to examine the current situation including **the job scenario in India's manufacturing, services and infrastructure sectors**.
- **ICICI Bank** has launched a new premium **savings account for upwardly-mobile male customers, named 'The ONE'**. It is available in two variants - **Magnum and Titanium**.
- **Nepal's central bank has banned the use of Indian currency notes of Rs 2,000, Rs 500 and Rs 200 denominations**.
- **IDBI Bank said Insurance behemoth LIC has completed acquisition of 51 per cent controlling stake in the bank**, making it the lender's majority shareholder.
- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says India's economy is poised to pick up this year**. It is projected to grow at **7.5 per cent this year and 7.7 per cent in 2020**.
- **The Tamil Nadu government will set up a start-up fund with a corpus of Rs 250 crore for investments in start-up businesses**, as per the new Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation policy 2018-2023 unveiled by Chief Minister K. Palaniswami in January, 2019.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has clarified that certain news items regarding en masse issue of prosecution **notices to small companies for TDS default are completely misleading and full of factual inaccuracies**.
- **India is likely to surpass the United Kingdom in the world's largest economy rankings in 2019, as per a report by global consultancy firm PwC**.
- Private sector lender **Yes Bank has partnered with Government of Maharashtra to onboard PDS shops** which are popularly referred to as ration shops onto the electronic PDS initiative through which they can become agents of the bank.
- **The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India**, in association with the three Insolvency Professional Agencies -- the **Indian Institute of Insolvency Professionals of ICAI (lead partner)**, the ICSI Institute of Insolvency Professionals, and the Insolvency Professional Agency of Institute of Cost Accountants of India -- **organised an Insolvency and Bankruptcy Awareness Programme at Vadodara in Gujarat recently**.
- **India has signed 11Mo-Us worth \$ 9.5 million with the Afghan government this week**.
- **The 4th edition of 'India Steel 2019 - Exhibition & Conference'** is being organised by the Ministry of Steel, Government of India along with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in **Mumbai on January 22- 24, 2019**.
- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, **Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 39 National Highways Projects in Andhra Pradesh**.
- Jharkhand Chief Minister, **Raghubar Das who also holds the finance portfolio, on January 22, 2019 tabled the annual budget for the state for the year 2019-20 worth Rs 85,429 crore**.
- The Union Cabinet in January, 2019 **approved setting up of a centralised Appellate Authority for Advance Ruling (AAAR) under the goods and services tax** that would decide on cases where there are divergent orders at the state level.
- **India will surpass China to become the second largest oil demand growth centre globally in 2019 on back of buoyant auto fuel and LPG consumption**, as per a report by research and consultancy group Wood Mackenzie that released on January 22, 2019.

- Indian Oil Corporation, is planning to invest as much as Rs 16,641 crore in Tamil Nadu. The PSU company signed a memorandum of understanding to this effect in January, 2019, with the state government at the Global Investors Meet in Chennai.
- India's economy is expected to grow at 7.4 per cent during 2018-19 and improve to 7.6 per cent in the next fiscal, said a UN report In January, 2019.
- SBI Card and Etihad Guest, the loyalty programme of Etihad Airways, have joined hands to launch a travel specific Visa credit card for members and Indian travellers.
- Royal Enfield, the global leader in the mid-sized motorcycle segment signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- Union minister Nitin Gadkari in January, 2019 laid the foundation stones for two highway projects worth 1,600 crore rupees in Mumbai metropolitan region of Maharashtra.
- SBM Group, a diversified financial services provider and the second largest listed banking institution on the Stock Exchange of Mauritius, announced the launch of SBM Bank (India) Limited which will operate as a full-fledged universal bank.
- The Supreme Court in January, 2019 issued contempt notices to the RBI for failing to reveal under the Right to Information Act intelligence received on loan defaulters and details of action taken against banks in connection with fraud.
- Sarvatra Technologies, India's leading end-to-end payments and banking solutions provider, has been awarded the 'Best Banking Tech' of the year for its world-class Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) switch platform that played a critical role in the effective nationwide participation in National Financial Switch (NFS) network.
- The Supreme Court on January 25, 2019 upheld the constitutional validity of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- A consortium of *India's eleven largest banks to launch the country's first blockchain-linked funding for small and medium enterprises (SME)*.
- The 11 big lenders participating in the initiative include *ICICI, AXIS, HDFC, Kotak Mahindra, YES Bank, Standard Chartered, RBL, South Indian Bank, IndusInd Bank, State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda*.
- In a bid to prevent big economic offenders like Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi from fleeing the country, the government has empowered PSU banks to request lookout circulars (LOCs) against wilful defaulters and fraudsters, officials said in January, 2019.
- Foreign direct investment (FDI) during the previous fiscal grew 18 per cent to Rs 28.25 lakh crore, data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed In January, 2019.
- The Department of Economic Affairs and the French Development Agency in January, 2019 signed a credit facility framework agreement for extending bilateral funding to the tune of Euro 245 million towards the Pune Metro Project.
- Renault-Nissan Alliance India has signed an agreement with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to train its workforce in the Alliance plant in Chennai for future technologies.
- The BJP-led Assam government in January, 2019 launched a credit-linked subsidy scheme for farmers.
- Doha Bank has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd (StockHolding), India's premier custodian and depository participant, to facilitate its global customer base to invest in India.
- India and China have signed the protocol for exports of Indian tobacco leaves to China. Quality tobacco on par with international standards is available in India at competitive prices and there is a good potential for export of Indian tobacco to China.
- India has replaced Japan as the world's second-largest steel producing country, only behind China, which is the largest producer of crude steel accounting for more than 51 per cent of production, as per the latest report by World Steel Association.
- IndusInd Bank has announced the launch of 'IndusInd Bank PAYBACK Credit Card', a co-branded credit card in partnership with PAYBACK - the country's largest multi-brand loyalty program.

- The High Level Committee, chaired by the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, approved the additional Central assistance from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) of Rs 7214.03 crore to 6 States and one Union Territory.
- The Union Ministry of Steel on January 28, 2019 announced to set up the 'Safety Directorate'.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on January 30, 2019 proposed a new set of relaxed norms for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) to increase access to investors.
- China-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), in which India is the second largest shareholder, plans to launch local currency financing in India and some other Asian nations later this year to reduce cross-border investment risks caused by exchange-rate fluctuations.
- The 15th Finance Commission in January, 2019 announced the formation of a committee headed by finance commission member Ramesh Chand to find ways to settle the food account of Rs 31,000 crore, which the Congress government inherited from previous SAD-BJP regime.
- The Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi announced on January 28, 2019 that the GST on Haj has been reduced from 18 per cent to 5 per cent.

Non-financial One Liner Current Affairs

- Vinod Kumar Yadav, general manager South Central railway, has been appointed as chairman, Railway Board (Ministry of Railways) and ex-officio Principal Secretary to Government of India.
- The government has appointed Sudhir Bhargava as new Chief Information Commissioner along with four new Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission (CIC) which had been functioning with just three of them as against a sanctioned strength of 11, including the Chief Information Commissioner.
- Senior Indian Administrative Service official Sudhi Ranjan Mohanty was In January, 2019 appointed Madhya Pradesh Chief Secretary.
- India and Pakistan in January, 2019 exchanged the lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen in their custody.
- India and Pakistan in January, 2019 exchanged the list of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear installations between them.
- The Lok Sabha passed the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill yesterday. It amends the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and replaces the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018.
- The United States and Israel officially quit the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) with the close of 2018.
- Veteran actor-writer Kader Khan passed away in Canada yesterday.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched a new platform called 'Samwad with Students' on January 1, 2019 in Bengaluru, as part of its enhanced outreach programme.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for continuation of five schemes under the 'Umbrella Scheme for Family Welfare and Other Health Interventions' during the Fourteenth Finance Commission period 2017-18 to 2019-20, an official statement said.
- Union Cabinet has approved the *restructuring of National Health Agency as the National Health Authority for better implementation of Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana*.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in January, 2019 gave Hemant Bhargava additional charge as chairman. The announcement to appoint Bhargava, who is currently a managing director, comes after the retirement of VK Sharma on December 31.
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) announced on January 1, 2019 that it has appointed Pramod Kumar Singh as its secretary.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 106th Indian Science Congress at Lovely Professional University in Phagwara near Jalandhar on January 3, 2019.
- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu handed over 6 croreth LPG connection under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) to Jasmina Khatoun from Shivpark, Khanpur, Delhi.

- **Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair** was declared as an authorised Immigration Check post for entry into and exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.
- The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, along with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), will organise **the 4th International Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Device sector on February 18-19, 2019 in Bengaluru.**
- **Punjab Cabinet** approved the modalities for **the distribution of smartphones, with graduating students of government schools, colleges and technical institutions to be covered in the first phase of the scheme.**
- Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh approved the **Online Transfer Policy-2019 of the School Education Department**, thus ensuring equal opportunity for all employees using online method for seeking transfers.
- **'Chang'e-4', a Chinese spacecraft, has made the first-ever landing on the far side of the moon.**
- Five nations, namely, **Belgium, Dominican Republic, Germany, Indonesia and South Africa** assumed the charge as the **Non-Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).**
- **Virat Kohli bagged another major record to his name as he became the fastest to reach 19000 international runs, surpassing his idol Sachin Tendulkar in the list to claim the summit position.**
- **The East Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh achieved 100 percent electrification under the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya Scheme).**
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on January 3, 2019 **notified the new food packaging regulations, replacing all provisions regarding the packaging requirements prescribed in the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011.**
- The Union Human Resource Development Ministry on December 31, 2018 **constituted a task force to look into the issues of suicides of the students in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas.**
- In the United States, veteran democratic leader **Nancy Pelosi**, considered an ardent supporter of India-US ties, **has been elected as Speaker of the House of Representatives for the second time**, thus becoming the most powerful elected woman in America.
- **Pakistan** on January 3, 2019 **abolished the long-standing facility of visa on arrival for nationals of Afghanistan.**
- **Arunima Sinha**, the Indian mountaineer who became the world's first woman amputee to climb Mount Everest in 2013, has now **become the first woman amputee to climb Mount Vinson, highest peak of Antarctica.**
- **The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship hosted the third edition of the National Entrepreneurship Awards in New Delhi on January 4, 2019.**
- **The first official World Braille Day is celebrated on 4 January 2019.**
- **Hardeep Singh Puri**, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, on January 4, 2019 launched the **'Swachh Survekshan 2019'**, the fourth edition of the annual nationwide cleanliness survey of urban India in New Delhi.
- **The 27th edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF), which has the UAE's third largest emirate Sharjah as its 2019 guest of honour, is set to enthrall book lovers from January 5 to 13 at Pragati Maidan.**
- **Odisha will participate as a partner state in the upcoming mega international food and beverage show 'Indus Food 2019', according to state MSME Minister Prafulla Samal.**
- **The National Green Tribunal on January 4, 2018 imposed a fine of whopping Rs 100 crore on the Meghalaya government for its failure to curb illegal coal mining in the state.**
- **The 80th National Table Tennis Championship began at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack in January, 2019.**
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman Dr K Sivan has said that the **Union Government has allocated 10,900 crore rupees for the development of 40 satellite launch vehicles in the next four years.**
- **Secunderabad Railway Station became the first railway station of South Central Railway (SCR) zone to hoist a huge tricolour on a 100-foot tall pole at its main entrance here In January, 2019.**
- In Gujarat, **the nine-day long international kite festival kicked off at Sabarmati River Front in Ahmedabad this morning.**
- **Odisha Agriculture Minister Pradeep Maharathy resigned**

- India kicked-off their AFC Asian Cup campaign on a high as the Blue Tigers secured a thumping 4-1 win over Thailand.
- Malaysia's king has abdicated, royal officials said In January, 2019, in a historic first for the country that ended weeks of speculation about his future after he took medical leave.
- Union Cabinet has approved **10 per cent reservation** in direct recruitments and for admission in higher educational institutions for the **economically backward section in the general category**.
- The North Central Railway, **NCR has launched a mobile application to help people navigate through Prayagraj city during Kumbh Mela starting from January 15.**
- The Union Women and Child Development Minister, **Maneka Gandhi conferred National Awards to 97 Anganwadi Workers at a function in New Delhi on January 7, 2018** for exceptional achievements for the year 2017-18.
- **The Lok Sabha on January 7, 2019 passed the Personal Laws (Amendment Bill), 2018, which seeks to remove leprosy as a ground for divorce.**
- The Union Government will soon make it **mandatory for linking Aadhaar with driving licences**, as per Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- **2019 Golden Globe Awards: Bohemian Rhapsody wins Best Picture Drama**
- **Veterans Asha Parekh and Farooque Shaikh will be honoured by the Bimal Roy Memorial and Film Society on January 8, 2018** to commemorate the 52nd death anniversary of the renowned filmmaker.
- **Veteran journalist Dinu Randive has been conferred with the lifetime achievement award by the Mantralaya and Vidhimandal Vartahar Sangh**, an association of journalists covering Maharashtra legislature and secretariat.
- **Egypt has opened West Asia's largest cathedral in its New Administrative Capital, 45 kilometres east of Cairo.**
- **India officially win a Test series in Australia for the first time after turning the final match into a non-result.**
- **The Airports Authority of India (AAI) imposed a ban on single-use plastic items at its 129 airports across the country.**
- **Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg inaugurated a new green compound at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi.**
- Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, **Dharmendra Pradhan launched NIO and MRSC for Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP) Bid Round-II.**
- The Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar on January 7, 2019 **approved an increase of 5000 seats in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) for the Academic Year 2019-20.**
- The Supreme Court on January 8, 2019 **reinstated Alok Verma as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director**, three months after the government divested him of his powers and sent him on forced leave.
- India born **Gita Gopinath joined the International Monetary Fund as its Chief Economist.** She is the first woman to occupy the top IMF post.
- **In a first, Global Aviation Summit 2019 with the theme "Flying for all" will be organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) in collaboration with FICCI from January 15-16, 2019 in Mumbai, India.**
- **India and Norway released a Joint Statement on January 8, 2019 after extensive talks between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Norwegian PM Erna Solberg**, during the latter's official state visit to India from January 7-9, 2019.
- The Lok Sabha on January 8, 2019 passed **the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill**, which seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955 to make illegal migrants **who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, eligible for citizenship.** The bill has now been tabled in the Rajya Sabha.
- **The Lok Sabha on January 8, 2019 passed the Constitution (124th Amendment) Bill 2019 to provide 10 per cent reservation in jobs and educational institutions to economically backward section in the general category.**
- **Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO has planned to set up Space Galleries in various locations in the country.**

- In a surprise move, **World Bank President Jim Yong Kim** announced that he will step down from his position on **February 1, 2019**, much before the end of his term in 2022.
- **Guatemala** has said it is **withdrawing from a UN-backed anti-corruption commission**. It has given the **UN body's staff 24 hours to leave the country**.
- **Japan**, for the second time in a row, has topped a global index for the world's most powerful passport in **2019**, while **India** ranked at the **79th position**.
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** on **January 8, 2019** announced **USA Cricket** as its **105th member**.
- **Egypt** will host the **2019 Africa Cup of Nations** between **June 15 and July 13, 2019**.
- **CBI Director Alok Verma**, who was reinstated to the post by the Supreme Court on Tuesday, **has been transferred**.
- The **Union Ministry of Women and Child Development** on **January 9, 2018** launched an online campaign, '**Web - Wonder Women**' also known as '**#www**'.
- The Cabinet on Thursday **approved the establishment of three more All India Institute of Medical Sciences, AIIMS** to boost healthcare infrastructure in the country.
- **World Hindi Day** is celebrated on **January 10 every year**, marking the anniversary of first World Hindi Conference which was held in 1975.
- **MC Mary Kom became the World No 1 Boxer in 45-48 kg category in the latest International Boxing Association's (AIBA) World Rankings released** on **January 10, 2019**.
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced on **January 10, 2019** that it would be giving a **15-day amnesty** to participants who have previously failed to report any information concerning corrupt conduct in **Sri Lankan cricket**.
- Indian men's hockey coach **Harendra Singh** was on **January 9, 2019** sacked from the position and offered the task of helming the junior squad by the national federation.
- An agreement for **Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project** was signed in **New Delhi** on **Friday** among the States of **Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand** in the presence of **Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Minister Nitin Gadkari**.
- **ISRO** announced on **January 11, 2019** that it is well prepared to meet the targets of launching **Gaganyaan** manned mission to outer space by **December 2021**.
- The **Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr Harsh Vardhan** on **January 10, 2019** launched the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**, a time-bound national level strategy for pan India implementation to tackle the increasing air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner.
- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the creation of the post of **Vice Chancellor for India's first rail and transportation university, National Rail & Transport Institute (NRTI)**, which has been set up in **Vadodara, Gujarat**.
- The sacked **CBI Chief, Alok Verma** on **January 11, 2019** announced his resignation from service, refusing to take charge of the new role as **DG, Fire Services**.
- Former chief statistician **T C A Anant** has been named as a member of the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**, officials said **Friday**.
- **Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen** appointed **Su Tseng-chang** as **Prime Minister of the state** on **January 10 2019**.
- **US President Donald Trump** has appointed former defence executive **Charles Kupperman** as his deputy national security advisor.
- In a first, the provincial government on **Friday** appointed an official from the minority Sikh community as **Public Relations Officer (PRO)** at **Punjab Governor House**.
- **President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF), Birendra Prasad Baishya**, has been named **Chef de Mission** for the **2020 Tokyo Olympics**.
- **India skipper Virat Kohli** and coach **Ravi Shastri** today received the honorary membership of the **Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG)** for their contribution to the sport of cricket.
- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** hired former Citi executive **Daniel Houghes Callahan, 62**, as an additional and independent director for **5 years**.

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is setting up a 'Human Space Flight Centre' in Bengaluru, which will support its quest of making country's maiden manned space mission a success.
- Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Col Rajyavardhan Rathore today launched the National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 at a function in New Delhi. The festival will continue till 24th of next month.
- Macedonia late Friday fulfilled its part of a historic deal that will pave its way to NATO membership and normalize relations with neighboring Greece, after lawmakers approved constitutional changes to rename the country North Macedonia.
- 8-year-old Kartik Singh has won the under-8 category at the Kids' Golf World Championship organised by US kids Golf in Malaysia, which makes him the youngest Indian to win the title.
- National Youth Day 2019 was celebrated across India on 12 January, 2019.
- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced on January 13, 2019 that his government will implement the 10 per cent reservation for economically weaker sections of the general category with immediate effect.
- Puducherry government has decided to ban the production, sale and use of single-use plastic products in the Union Territory from March 1, 2019.
- In Punjab, the government has said that it will regularise over 5100 teachers with full pay scale next month.
- Science and Technology Minister Dr Harshvardhan on January 14, 2019 launched the special weather services for Kumbh Mela at a function in New Delhi.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 13, 2019 released a commemorative silver coin of Rs 350 and stamp on Tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji to mark his 352nd birth anniversary.
- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind on January 12, 2019 gave his assent to the Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, 2019 which aims to provide reservation in public employment and higher education to economically weaker sections in the general category.
- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on January 14, 2019 conferred with the first-ever Philip Kotler Presidential Award.
- Writer Namita Gokhale has won the Sushila Devi Literature Award for her novel "Things to Leave Behind".
- Niyogi Books has launched a new imprint Bahuvachan dedicated to Hindi titles.
- India and the five Central Asia nations on January 13, 2019 showed their support for the inclusive peace process in Afghanistan following the first ever India-Central Asia Dialogue. These five Central Asia nations are Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.
- The main camera onboard NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has been shut down after it encountered a hardware problem.
- Tulsi Gabbard, the first Hindu elected to US Congress and a four-time Democratic lawmaker, has said she will run for President in 2020, becoming the latest member of her party to challenge Republican President Donald Trump.
- Gensol Mobility has launched India's first ever 100 percent smart electric fleet of taxis namely Blu-Smart in Delhi NCR.
- Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling in January, 2019 launched 'One Family, One Job' scheme.
- The government has approved a proposal to extend the 7th Central Pay Commission benefits to teachers and other academic staff of the state government and government-aided degree level technical institutes.
- The Chennai Traffic Police inducted a road safety robot into service on January 14, 2019 for traffic management. The robot is named as 'ROADEO'.
- The Department of Science and Technology, along with Doordarshan, launched two science communication initiatives - DD Science and India Science.
- 10-year-old, Abhinav Shaw teamed up Mehuli Ghosh and won the gold medal in 10 m air rifle mixed team event in Khelo India Youth Games in January, 2019.
- 71st Army Day was celebrated across India on January 15, 2019.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the Kollam Bypass of the Kerala to the Nation.
- Hundreds of tourists thronged Puri sea beach here to witness the first Odisha Turtle Festival held in January, 2019 to create awareness and promote ideas on conservation of olive ridley turtles.

- The second **India-Myanmar bilateral Army exercise 'IMBEX 2018-19'** commenced at **Chandimandir** military station near here in January, 2019.
- Minister of State for Railways, **Manoj Sinha** inaugurated the **newly built broad gauge railway line between Amb Andora and Daulatpur chowk in Una district in Himachal Pradesh.**
- **The Maharashtra Cabinet approved schemes worth over Rs 700 crore for financial welfare of OBCs and the SC/ST communities.**
- The **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** and the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on January 14, 2019 to increase emphasis on multi-disciplinary research and development activities and nurturing innovations in agricultural biotechnology research and education.
- In Rajasthan, senior leader of Congress and former **Central Minister C.P Joshi** was elected as **Speaker of the 15th Legislative Assembly.**
- After a gap of four years, **the Centre in January, 2019 announced the awardees for the prestigious Gandhi Peace Prize for 2015 to 2018.**
- **Mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta** in January, 2019 conquered Antartica's highest point, Mount Sidley. With this feat, **he became the first Indian and youngest man to climb the seven highest peaks and volcanic summits across all continents.**
- According to the in-Reach Satellite, C
- ***Maharashtra is leading in the Medal tally of Khelo India Youth Games with 177 Medals including 64 Gold as on January 16, 2019.***
- **Bengaluru, is the world's most dynamic city among 131 major established and emerging business hubs globally, followed by Hyderabad** that is ranked second with Delhi (4th), Pune (5th) and Chennai (7th) featuring in the top 10 cities, according to the sixth ***City Momentum Index published by JLL.***
- National space agency, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on January 17, 2019 launched the **UNNATI (UNispace Nano-satellite Assembly and Training by ISRO) programme at the U R Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru.**
- The Union government will soon **set up over 460 more Eklavya Model Residential Schools across the country.**
- The Supreme Court on January 17, 2019 **set aside some provisions of a law imposing restrictions on the licensing and functioning of dance bars in Maharashtra.**
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has **imposed a penalty on the Chemists and Druggists Association of Baroda (CDAB) after it found it to be in contravention of the provisions of the Competition Act, 2002.**
- The Ministry of Finance on January 16, 2019 constituted a **Group of Ministers (GoM) on issues relating to lottery.** The GoM is headed **by Sudhir Mungantiwar, Finance Minister, Maharashtra.**
- The Election Commission of India on January 16, 2019 launched **Voter Awareness Forum (VAF) in New Delhi.** Similar **VAFs were launched by the Chief Electoral Officers in the state capitals and by District Election Officers in the districts simultaneously.**
- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has **approved the report of a task force created by MHA to identify areas for use of space technology in improving Border Management.**
- **The Union government in January, 2019 cleared the names of two judges Dinesh Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna for elevation to the Supreme Court.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi **inaugurated the National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) in Mumbai on January 19, 2019.**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January, 2019 **inaugurated the Armoured Systems Complex of Larsen and Toubro in Gujarat**, the first private facility in the country where the K9 Vajra self-propelled Howitzer guns will be manufactured.
- Bihar Government lifted **ban on sale of live fish, three days after it banned the sale, transportation and storage of all kinds of fish dead or alive in Patna for 15 days.**
- Hardeep S. Puri, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, on January 18, 2019 informed that a series of events named '**Shehri Samridhi Utsav**' will begin from February 1, 2019 and will go on till February 15, 2019.
- **Naval Air Station (NAS) Shibpur** will be commissioned as **INS Kohassa** by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba on January 24, 2019.
- The **Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H)** has announced the launch of a full-fledged bachelor's programme in **Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology** from the new academic session, which is a first for the country and only the third globally.
- **The second World Orange Festival began in Nagpur on January 18, 2019.**
- A **Regional Conference on 'Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme'** was held in Mumbai on January 17, 2019.
- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, **Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the 10th edition of the India Rubber Expo - 2019 in Mumbai.**
- **Justice Asif Saeed Khosa took oath as the 26th Chief Justice of Pakistan** in a simple ceremony.
- **Indian star wrestler Vinesh Phogat** on January 17, 2019 **became the first Indian athlete to be nominated for the prestigious Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award.**
- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs on January 20, 2019 announced that **Aadhaar Cards are now valid travel documents for Indians under 15 and over 65 years travelling to Nepal and Bhutan.**
- **The 15th edition of the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD)** began at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh on January 21, 2019, giving a chance to the Indian diaspora to participate in the ongoing Kumbha Mela.
- Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on January 20, 2019 **inaugurated the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor from Tiruchirappalli**, taking a major step forward to boost indigenous production of defence equipment.
- **The 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019 on the Regulation of Homeopathic Medical Products will be held in Goa from January 23, 2019.** The three-day forum will be inaugurated by **AYUSH Minister Shripad Naik.**
- **A grand jallikattu (bull-taming) event held in Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu on January 20, 2019 entered the world record for the maximum number of bulls released into the sporting arena which was over 1,300 and almost double than the previous record.**
- **India has moved up one position to rank 80th on the global talent competitive index, but remains a laggard among the BRICS nations, a new survey showed.**
- **India is among the most trusted nations globally when it comes to government, business, NGOs and media.**
- **India's Ankita Raina has won the International Tennis Federation's 25,000-dollar Women's tournament in Singapore.**
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) **has named the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro as the World Capital of Architecture for 2020.**
- Eminent Indian scientist, Chintamani Nagesa Ramachandra Rao, popularly known as CNR Rao, was on January 18, 2019 chosen for the first Sheikh Saud International Prize for Materials Research by the Centre for Advanced Materials of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- **The world's oldest man, Masazo Nonaka of Japan, has died at the age of 113.**
- Prominent Lingayat seer of Tumakuru-based Siddaganga Math, 111-year old Shivakumara Swamiji, who was known as the '**Walking God**', passed away on January 21, 2019 after a prolonged illness.
- **The National Women's Party (NWP), which has been formed with the motto of women empowerment, was launched in Mumbai, Maharashtra on January 21, 2019.** The party has been founded by **Dr Swetha Shetty**, a medical practitioner-cum- activist from Hyderabad, who would also serve as its President.

- The Government on January 21, 2019 constituted a **Standing Committee headed by NITI Aayog to oversee the drug pricing regime. The Standing Committee on Affordable Medicines and Health Products will be headed by NITI Aayog Member (Health).**
- The Assam Government has **decided to give 10 percent quota in Government jobs and educational institutes to economically weaker sections in general category.**
- **Kinnar Akhara**, a group of transgender saints pursuing religious activities, emerged as a very significant feature at **Kumbh Mela 2019 at Prayagraj.**
- National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, **will organise an auction of prestigious memorable gifts presented to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi from all across India.**
- **Noted Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashashchandra has been awarded Saraswati Samman, 2017**, for his poetry collection in Gujarati named "**Vakhar**".
- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind on January 22, 2019 **conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2019.**
- **Indian Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu presented the second Chhatra Vishwakarma Awards to students and their mentors and Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) awards to institutions at an event organised by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) on January 21, 2019 at New Delhi.**
- **Indian skipper Virat Kohli on January 22, 2019 became the first cricketer to win all the top three ICC individual awards including the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year, the ICC Men's Test Player of the Year and the ICC ODI Player of the Year for his performances in 2018.**
- **Indian wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant claimed the ICC's Emerging Cricketer of the Year award.**
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) **announced a bonus of Rs 20 lakh each for the senior selection committee members following India's maiden Test series win in Australia.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 22, 2019 **launched the Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana under which a group of Indian diaspora will be taken on a government-sponsored tour of religious places in India twice a year.**
- The **Indian Navy on January 22, 2019 commenced its largest-ever coastal defence exercise - 'Sea Vigil'-off the Indian coast, ten years after the "26/11" attack.**
- The **Maharashtra cabinet on January 22, 2019 approved the implementation of the Centre's Nirbhaya scheme, which seeks to curb crimes against women, for Mumbai.**
- The **Prime Minister, Narendra Modi inaugurated the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas on January 22, 2019 in his parliamentary constituency, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. In the history of Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas, the event is being held for the first time in Varanasi, the cultural and spiritual capital of India.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 23, 2019 **inaugurated the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose museum at the iconic Red Fort in Delhi to mark the leader's 122nd birth anniversary.**
- **Cabinet has approved the landmark amendment to Article 280 of the Constitution to increase powers of Autonomous Councils in Sixth Schedule areas of North East.**
- **Union Minister of State for Ayush Shripad Naik inaugurated the 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019 in Panaji, Goa this evening.**
- The government has instituted an annual award titled **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar.** This year, **8th Battalion of National Disaster Response Force located at Ghaziabad has been selected for the Award for its commendable work in disaster management.**
- **Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal has been assigned to temporarily hold the portfolios of Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs during the period of the indisposition of Arun Jaitley.**
- **Indu Shekhar Jha on January 21, 2019 took oath as the Member of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).**
- **Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was on January 23, 2019 appointed AICC general secretary for Uttar Pradesh East**
- The **Israeli and US defence ministries announced on January 22, 2019 that they have successfully tested ballistic missile interceptors deployed at Israeli airbases.**
- **National Girl Child Day is observed across India on 24 January. The theme this year is 'Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow'.**

- Former India hockey player **Raghubir Singh Bhola**, a two-time Olympic medallist, passed away on January 21, 2019 at the age of 92.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired the Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LR-SAM) from naval warship INS Chennai off the coast of Odisha.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch a students' satellite KalamSat and an imaging satellite Microsat-R from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh on January 24, 2019, marking its first launch of the ISRO in 2019.
- India and Maldives have agreed to continue their traditionally close cooperation on issues of maritime security, counter-terrorism and medical cooperation.
- Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba commissioned the new Naval Air Base 'INS Kohassa' at Diglipur in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Rajyavardhan Rathore inaugurated the National Declamation Contest on Patriotism and Nation Building during the National Declamation Contest, organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) with the support of Department of Youth Affairs.
- Union Minister for Science & Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan will launch three important centres, set up by Department of Science and Technology (DST), at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IITM) on January 25, 2019.
- The pace of reduction of poverty in India has speeded up in recent years as per the Global Multi-dimensional Poverty Index 2018 and as per the note published by the Brookings Institution.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) will be hosting an International Conference on 'Making Elections Inclusive and Accessible' on January 24, 2019, in consonance with the 9th National Voters' Day which will be held on January 25, 2019.
- In a first for Kashmir, Lance Naik Nazir Ahmad Wani belonging to the state, will be awarded the highest peace-time gallantry award "Ashok Chakra" posthumously on Republic Day.
- The Central Bank of India has been given away the Atal Pension Yojana Award for promoting the scheme across the country.
- Three Indian expats from the UAE are amongst those who won the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2019, the highest honour conferred on Indian diaspora.
- YES Bank appointed Deutsche Bank's Ravneet Singh Gill as its MD and CEO, who will succeed Rana Kapoor.
- Jammu and Kashmir Government in January, 2019 issued formal orders regarding the appointment of Skandan Krishnan, IAS (Retired) as the fourth Advisor to the Governor Satya Pal Malik.
- Private sector Lakshmi Vilas Bank has reappointed Parthasarathi Mukherjee as its managing director when the lender is struggling to raise Rs 2000 crore from investors.
- Aviation veteran Ronojoy Dutta has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IndiGo
- United Nations observed the first International Day of Education on 24 January, 2019.
- The theme of the day was: "Education: A Key Driver for Inclusion and Empowerment."
- Uttar Pradesh celebrated its 69th foundation day on January 24, 2019.
- Social activist Nanaji Deshmukh, Music maestro Bhupen Hazarika and former President Pranab Mukherjee have been awarded with country's highest civilian honour Bharat Ratna.
- President of Djibouti Ismail Omar Guelleh, L&T chairman A M Naik, late journalist Kuldip Nayar, late actor Kadar Khan and cricketer Gautam Gambhir were among the 112 prominent personalities who were named in January, 2019 for conferment of this year's Padma awards.
- Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Petroleum and Natural Gas (MSDE) on January 24, 2019 launched new reforms and guidelines for Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) to further strengthen the skills ecosystem benefiting those in the underprivileged sections of society.
- After months of ground and flight trials, the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC), a premier military certification agency, on January 22, 2019 cleared the use of indigenously produced bio-fuel for use in the military aircraft.
- The Union Government has decided to renovate and develop around 400 abandoned airstrips across the country to strengthen air-connectivity.

- Fourth edition of Bharat Parv, showcasing the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat will begin at Red Fort in Delhi in January, 2019.
- Information and Broadcasting Ministry has decided to revise the advertisement rates offered by the Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC) to private TV channels.
- National Voters Day observed on 25 January, 2019 with the theme for this year "No Voter To Be Left Behind".
- Veteran South African all-rounder Johan Botha has announced his immediate retirement from all forms of cricket.
- Scientists in China have cloned five monkeys for human disease research. The research team edited genes of monkeys to induce several human diseases like Alzheimer's claiming that it would help in medical research.
- United Nations chief Antonio Guterres on January 24, 2019 warned that the world is "losing the race" on climate change and demanded that governments make bolder commitments beyond the Paris accord.
- Eminent Hindi author and poet Krishna Sobti passed away on January 25, 2019 at a hospital in Delhi. She was 93.
- India's fastest indigenous train which will run from Delhi to Varanasi has been named as Vande Bharat Express.
- On the occasion of Republic Day, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath in January, 2019 announced the launch of the 'Yuva Swabhiman Yojana' for youths from the economically weaker sections in urban areas.
- The Kerala government will soon launch a 'Pravasi Dividend Pension Scheme' to provide regular pension to Non Resident Keralites on a one-time payment of Rs 5 lakh, Governor P. Sathasivam said in January, 2019.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for All India Institutes of Medical Sciences, AIIMS at Madurai in Tamil Nadu in January, 2019.
- The all-women Assam Rifles contingent created history this year by participating for the first time in a Republic Day parade.
- Union Science and Technology Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated three specialized centers at Madras IIT in January, 2019.
- The Southern Railway has bagged the number one position for cleanliness in the country.
- Poonam Khetrapal Singh has been appointed the South-East Asia regional director of the World Health Organization (WHO) for a second five-year term.
- *Novak Djokovic defeats Rafael Nadal to earn his seventh Australian title*
- Japan's Naomi Osaka wins Australian Open 2019 Women's Singles title after defeating Petra Kvitova.
- Ace shuttler Saina Nehwal claimed her first BWF title in two years after three-time world champion Carolina Marin of Spain limped out of the Indonesia Masters final.
- India celebrated its 70th Republic Day with a grand display of its military might and rich cultural diversity as the ceremonial parade rolled down the majestic Rajpath in the presence of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa as the chief guest.
- International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust is observed on 27 January, 2019. The theme of the Holocaust remembrance and education activities this year is "Holocaust Remembrance: Demand and Defend Your Human Rights".
- Human Resources Development Ministry in January, 2019 signed an agreement with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for India's Participation in Programme for International Student Assessment- PISA 2021.
- Maharashtra state labour department has launched a housing scheme for construction workers in rural areas. Officials said the Atal Construction Workers Awas Yojana (Rural) is aimed at providing financial assistance of Rs 1.5 lakh each to construction workers to build pucca houses or to convert existing homes into pucca houses.

- **The Swasth Bharat Yatra, the world's biggest cyclothon to push people to eat right, culminated in New Delhi in January, 2019. The campaign was flagged-off on 16th October last year on the occasion of World Food Day.**
- **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated four-lane 5.1-kilometer long "Atal Setu", the third Cable Bridge across river Mandovi in Panaji, Goa.**
- **Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for development of a six-lane corridor from Akshardham in East Delhi to the Eastern Peripheral Expressway junction on Baghpat Road.**
- **The Ministry of Defence launched a mobile app 'RDP India 2019' on the Republic Day with the intent of making available the highlights of the Republic Day event to the general public all over the world.**
- **The Supreme Court on January 28, 2019 constituted a Constitution Bench for hearing a plea challenging the mandatory requirement to recite Sanskrit and Hindi prayers in morning assembly sessions of 1,125 Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) across the country.**
- **The Chief Election Commissioner of India, Shri Sunil Arora and Election Commissioner Shri Ashok Lavasa in January, 2019 inaugurated an International Conference on 'Making our Elections Inclusive and Accessible'.**
- **Part-time bowler Ambati Rayudu was banned from bowling in international cricket by the International Cricket Council (ICC) after he failed to submit a test of his bowling action.**
- **Malaysia was stripped of the right to host the 2019 World Para Swimming Championships for threatening to refuse to allow Israeli athletes to take part in the event.**
- **Nagaland in January, 2019 got its first Astro Turf Football Pitch at Indira Gandhi Stadium in Kohima on the occasion of 100th Birth Anniversary of the legendary footballer, Dr. T. Ao .**
- **The ICAR tableau in the Republic Day Parade has won the first prize for its Kisan Gandhi theme. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research tableau with the theme "Mishrit Kheti, Khushiyan Ki Kheti" portrayed Gandhi with goats and a cow and Kasturba engaged with charkha and caring animals. The tableau showcased a view from Bapu Kutti at Wardha Ashram.**
- **International Customs Day 2019 was observed globally on 26 January. The theme of International Customs Day 2019 was "SMART borders for seamless Trade, Travel and Transport."**
- **Data Privacy & Protection Day is observed on 28 January, 2019. The theme of this year's Data Privacy & Protection Day is A New Era In Privacy.**
- **Former Defence Minister and Anti-Emergency Crusader George Fernandes passed away in New Delhi.**
- **K.J. Alphons, Union Minister for Tourism will on January 30, 2019 inaugurate the first project under the Swadesh Darshan Project of the Union Ministry of Tourism at the Zero Point, Gangtok, Sikkim. This project was sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism in June 2015 for Rs. 98.05 crores.**
- **The four-day long celebrations of the 70th Republic Day concluded on January 29, 2019 with 'Beating the Retreat' ceremony, which was held at the historic Vijay Chowk in New Delhi.**
- **Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister for Human Resource Development will inaugurate the new Campus of the National Museum Institute at A-19, Sector 62, NOIDA (Institutional Area).**
- **Nari Shakti was chosen as the Hindi word of the year 2018 by Oxford Dictionary.**
- **The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on January 29, 2019 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) for improving official statistical system of India.**
- **India received the Award of Excellence for 'Best in Show' at the recently concluded New York Times Travel Show 2019.**

- India's national academy of letters, Sahitya Akademi on January 29, 2019 presented the Sahitya Akademi Award 2018 to 24 writers. The awards were given for 24 different Indian languages.
- Suman Kumari has become the first Hindu woman in Pakistan to be appointed as a civil judge, according to a media report.
- Martyr's Day observed on 30th January, 2019.
- World Leprosy Day was observed on January 27, 2019 with the theme ending discrimination, stigma and prejudice.
- Uttar Pradesh State Cabinet on January 29, 2019 approved the construction of a four-lane Ganga Expressway connecting Prayagraj to Western Uttar Pradesh.
- The state government of Maharashtra on January 29, 2019 launched a special scheme to curb infant deaths. The government started distributing baby-care kits to the children born in primary health centres and government hospitals, as part of its efforts to reduce the infant mortality rate.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated National Salt Satyagraha Memorial to the nation at Dandi village, situated in South Gujarat on Arabian sea coast.
- The Western Railway has provided Segways, the two-wheeled, self-balancing and battery-powered electric vehicles, to the Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel deployed at major railway stations in Mumbai.
- Actress Deepika Padukone has replaced producer Kiran Rao as the chairperson of the Mumbai Academy of Moving Image (MAMI), which organises the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival with Star.
- India improved its ranking on the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) by three points and moved to 78th position with a score of 41. India ranked at 81st place on the Corruption Perceptions Index 2017.
- The central banks of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia have launched a common digital currency called 'Aber', which will be used in financial settlements between the two countries through Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers technologies.