

# Abhyaas Newsboard...

*For the quintessential test prep student*

## *Persons in News*

1. Soma Roy Burman has taken charge as the 24th Controller General of Accounts. She is the seventh woman to hold the post. Burman has helmed several important positions in different Union Ministries in her three-decade-long career.
2. On 13th December 2019, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, (74) former Prime Minister (PM) of Algeria was elected as the President of Algeria succeeding Abdelkader Bensalah. Tebboune served as the PM from May 2017 to August 2017, under the governance of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika.
3. On 13th December 2019, Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson won the United Kingdom (UK) general election after his Conservative Party crossed the required majority of 326 votes of the 650 seats in the House of Commons. The Labour party headed by Jeremy Bernard Corbyn and the Scottish National Party headed by Nicola Ferguson Sturgeon gained 203 and 43 votes respectively. 15 Indian-origin politicians entered the UK's House of Commons and the UK will be removed from the European Union (EU) in January marking Johnson's win in the general election.
4. On 6th December 2019, C. Sugandh Rajaram, IFS:2001 (Indian Foreign Service) was appointed as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Ghana; He is the current Consul General, Consulate General of India, Munich, Germany. Birender Singh Yadav, IFS: 1997 was the previous High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Ghana.
5. On 3rd December 2019, Upender Singh Rawat, IFS (Indian Foreign Service) officer and the current Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Panama has been appointed as the Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica with a residence in Panama City.
6. On 2nd December 2019, Prithviraj Singh Roopun (61) was elected as the President of Mauritius by the Lawmakers of Mauritius. Prithviraj Roopun was the former Minister of Arts and Culture of Mauritius. He preceded Ammenah Gurib-Fakim who resigned in March 2018. Also, Mr. Marie Cyril Eddy Boissezon appointed as the new Vice-President of the Republic of Mauritius.
7. On 8th December 2019, Paul Adolph Volcker, former Chairman of the Federal Reserve of the United States (US) passed away.
8. On December 9, 2019 the inventor of Universal Product Code (UPC) or Barcode, George Joseph Laurer, passed away at the age of 94 due to old age ailments in Wendell, North Carolina in the US (United States). His barcode invention at IBM (International Business Machines) corporation, transformed the retail industries as well as other industries across the world.
9. Google CEO Indian-American Sundar Pichai will soon take over as the CEO of Alphabet, Google's parent company. The move is expected to make him one of the most powerful corporate leaders of the world. The announcement came after Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin informed about their decision to step down from the leadership position at Alphabet.
10. Dennis Muilenburg, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of American Aerospace firm, Boeing has stepped down after MAX 737 crashes. He will be succeeded by its Chairman David L. Calhoun. But, he will not take charge as CEO until January 13, 2020. Until he joins, Boeing's Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Greg Smith will serve as interim CEO.
11. Cyrus Mistry, who was ousted as the Chairman of Tata Sons, has been restored to the position by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal. Mistry had been abruptly removed from the position in 2016 and former Chairman Ratan Tata was recalled on an interim basis. The move has shocked Tata Sons. The group can file an appeal against the decision within four weeks.
12. On 11th December 2019, Greta Thunberg, 16 year old Swedish climate activist was named TIME's Person of the Year for 2019, she is the youngest person to be honoured with the title in the 92 year history of TIME magazine.

The TIME's Person of the Year for 2019 award is conferred since 1927, for a person or a group of people who create an impact on the important events taking place in the year, the selection is done by the editors of TIME magazine.

13. Legendary Political cartoonist Vikas Sabnis passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra due to cardiac arrest. He was 69. Born on 12 July 1950, Sabnis studied at the Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy (JJ) School of Arts in Mumbai. He considered the famous cartoonist Description Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Laxman & Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray as his role models. After working in Thackeray's weekly magazine 'Marmik', for 12 years, Sabnis joined the Marathi daily newspaper 'Loksatta'.
14. Argentine footballer Lionel Messi won the prestigious football honor Ballon d'Or for record sixth time. Liverpool defender Virgil Van Dijk finished second and Cristiano Ronaldo of Juventus finished third. Megan Rapinoe won this award in the women category. Messi, who could not make it to the top three last time, won the award after four years. Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal has won this award five times.
15. Kuldeep Yadav has become the first Indian bowler to pick up two ODI hat-tricks and sixth overall. The other bowlers to achieve the feat include Sri Lanka's Lasith Malinga and Chaminda Vaas and Pakistan's Wasim Akram and Saqlain Mushtaq and New Zealand's Trent Boult.
16. On 3rd December 2019, Roger Federer (38), from Basel Switzerland became the first ever living Swiss to have his face engraved in the Swiss coin. Roger's image was engraved in a 20-Franc silver coin by the Swissmint, official mint of the Swiss Confederation. It is the first time in history that a living person's is being honoured with his image engraved on the Swiss coin. The first minting ran off 55,000 units being sold out between the 2nd and 19th of December 2019 and more coins will be minted during May 2020 on a 50-Franc gold coin with a different design.
17. The creation of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) post has finally been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). The post of Chief of Defence Staff is a four-star post. A CDS will work as the chief military advisor to the government and Prime Minister. General Bipin Rawat will be India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). He will serve as the principal military advisor to the defence minister as the head of the new Department of Military Affairs to ensure jointness and synergy between the three defence services of India. Narendra Modi announced the creation of a new post of CDS in his Independence Day speech on August 15, 2019. The CDS will head all three forces – Indian Army, Indian Navy and India Air Force.
18. General Manoj Mukund Naravane has been appointed as the new Indian Army Chief. He will be succeeding General Bipin Rawat, who has been appointed as the first Chief of Defence Staff of India. General Naravane has the experience of working in an active anti-terrorism environment for over 37 years.
19. On December 30, 2019 outgoing Indian Army Chief General Bipin Rawat has been appointed as India's 1st Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). The CDS is a 4-star single-point military adviser to the government's defence ministry as suggested by the Kargil Review Committee in 1999 headed by K. Subrahmanyam.
20. Christina Hammock Koch (40), an American engineer and the United States (US) Space agency-NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) astronaut has created history by becoming the longest-lived woman in space. She overtook the record of NASA's astronaut Peggy Whitson for 288 days in the International Space Station (ISS). Koch, who arrived at the space station March 14, 2019, will return from ISS on February 6, 2020 after spending 328 days / nearly 11 months in space. The record for the longest (340 days) stay in the ISS was held by Scott Kelly, who was in space during 2015-16.

### *Places in News*

1. JMM-Congress-RJD alliance won a majority in the Jharkhand Assembly Elections 2019, defeating Raghuraj Das-led BJP government in the state. The JMM alliance won 47 seats of the total 81. The Chief Ministerial candidate of the JMM-Congress-RJD alliance Hemant Soren won from both Barhait and Dumka constituencies; while BJP's Raghuraj Das lost from Jamshedpur East.
2. Kerala has become the first state in India to pass a resolution demanding rollback of the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The Kerala assembly passed a resolution against the CAA on December 31, 2019. Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan had moved the anti-CAA resolution in the special one-day session, stating that the CAA act contradicts the basic values and principles of the Constitution. The special assembly session was convened to

ratify the extension of SC/ ST reservation in the Assembly and the Parliament for another decade, the anti-CAA resolution was also taken up because of the widespread protests regarding the law.

3. On December 11, 2019 The South Pacific region of Bougainville was voted to become the world's newest nation by gaining independence from Papua New Guinea. The chairman of Bougainville Referendum Commission Bertie Ahern declared that 98% of the voters backed independence. In the total of 1,76,928 people that voted, only 3,043 voted in favour of remaining with Papua New Guinea itself with more autonomy. Bougainville Referendum: Bougainville is an island in Papua New Guinea. The Bougainville referendum is a key part of a 2001 peace agreement that ended a civil war in which at least 15,000 people died in the cluster of islands to the east of Papua New Guinea mainland.
4. Saudi Arabia recently became the first Arab nation to assume the G20 Presidency. The Kingdom took over the presidency from Japan. Saudi Arabia will now host world leaders for the G20 Summit on November 21-22, 2020.
5. On 1st December 2019, the 20th edition of the Hornbill festival began in Heritage Kisama, an Amphitheatre in Kohima, Nagaland, it is also the 57th Statehood Day of Nagaland. The festival is organized by Nagaland Government and is celebrated for the promotion of tourism and for the exhibition of the state's tradition and culture.
6. Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal has inaugurated the 5-day long 30th edition of Konark festival, a showcase of Odisha's art, culture and tradition has started in Odisha. The theme of the festival is based on eco-tourism, culture, Fairs, women empowerment, and no to plastic and heritage.
7. Japan topped the list of the most affected countries in 2018. The country was hit by three exceptionally strong extreme weather events during the year- severe rainfall, severe heatwave and Typhoon Jebi.
8. The Rohtang Pass was recently renamed as the 'Atal Tunnel' on the occasion of 95th Birth Anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The Tunnel connects Leh and Manali. The Tunnel is currently under construction and will be completed by 2020.
9. Tripura will soon get its first Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Jalefa, Sabroom in the South Tripura District. The same was notified by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI) on December 16, 2019. The Tripura Special Economic Zone will be agro-based food processing zone. It will help the native people to fetch employment.
10. The deepest canyon on land on earth is found in the Denman glacier in East Antarctica. The discovery was done by Glaciologists at the University of California Irvine (UCI), California and was presented at the American Geophysical Union's Fall Meeting held in San Francisco. The project is led by Mathieu Morlighem, an associate professor in the Department of Earth System Science at UCI.

### *Events of Significance*

1. Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019 has been approved by the union cabinet on December 04, 2019. There are some provisions that are creating a stir among opposition parties and calling it an anti-minority bill. Central Government has given it a top priority while the opposition parties are taking a very strong stand on this bill and calling it contrary to the spirit of the Constitution. All opposition parties have given a clear indication that it will not be easy for the government to pass the bill in Parliament.
  - The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill-2019 will provide Indian citizenship to the six minority communities from Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. These six communities are - Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, Christian and Sikhs.
  - At present, it is mandatory for a person to stay here for at least 11 years to get citizenship of India.
  - The bill will reduce this period to six years. It will enable people from these communities to get Indian citizenship in six years.
  - It will make some amendments to the Citizenship Act 1955 to provide legal aid for citizenship.
2. With President Ram Nath Kovind signing the Citizen Amendment Bill 2019, the legislation now becomes an Act. However, Union Home Minister Amit Shah made it clear that the Bill is not applicable to North-eastern states like Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, 70% of Tripura and almost entire Meghalaya because of the Inner Line Permit. President recently extended the Inner Line Permit to Manipur as well.

3. In the midst of the uproar over the Citizenship Amendment Bill, the Nagaland state government extended an Inner Line Permit (ILP) in Dimapur district of the state with immediate effect. The provision of inner line permit in the state has been made under Section 2 of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873. Also, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has extended the Inner Line Permit (ILP) to Manipur, making it the 4th state in the northeast after Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland.
4. The Supreme Court refused to hear the petitions filed against police atrocities on students of Jamia Millia Islamia University and Aligarh Muslim University. The petitioners have been asked to approach the jurisdictional High Court for the matter. The apex court identified the matter as the law and order problem and it does not have to intervene in it.
5. Delhi High Court recently agreed to hear plea against police atrocities on Jamia Milia Islamia University students. The plea seeks the setting up of a fact-finding committee to inquire police crackdown in Jamia following the violent protests against the CAA - Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019. The high court will be hearing the case on December 19, 2019. The bench will comprise Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Rekha Palli.
6. Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind has filed a review petition against the Supreme Court's Ayodhya verdict, in which the court granted the disputed Ayodhya land to the Hindu parties and ordered allotment of 5 acres of alternate land to the Muslim parties. The Muslim body filed for review of the order on December 2, 2019 on behalf of the entire Muslim community. The review petition has been filed for certain parts of the court order. The Muslim body stated that none of the Muslim parties had wanted allotment of alternate land. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) is also expected to file a review petition before December 9. The Sunni Waqf Board, however, has decided not to review the judgement.
7. The Supreme Court dismissed all the review petitions against the Ayodhya dispute. The five-judge Supreme Court bench comprising Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justices SA Nazeer, D Y Chandrachud, Sanjeev Khanna and Ashok Bhushan considered only those petitions that were filed by parties which filed lawsuits in the famous Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case.
8. "The Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been passed in the Parliament. The bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha on December 3, 2019 amidst a walkout by the Indian National Congress. The Lok Sabha had passed the SPG bill earlier on November 27, 2019. The SPG (Amendment) Bill, 2019 proposes to provide security to the Prime Minister and the members of his immediate family, who are residing with him at the official residence. "The SPG bill also proposes to provide security to former prime ministers and their immediate family members residing with him at the official residence allotted to him for five years."
9. The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019, which seeks to amend the Income Tax Act 1961, has been passed by the Parliament. The bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on December 5, 2019. The Lok Sabha had passed the bill earlier on December 2. "The bill will replace an ordinance promulgated by the President in September 2019 to reduce corporate tax rates. The bill will amend both the Income Tax Act 1961 and the Finance (No 2) Act 2019. The bill seeks to attract more investment in the manufacturing sector by bringing down corporate tax rates to 22 percent without incentives and 15 percent for new manufacturing entities
10. The Arms (Amendment) Bill, 2019, proposing life imprisonment as punishment for possessing or manufacturing illegal arms, has been passed by the Parliament. The bill makes celebratory gunfire also punishable with jail term and fine.
11. The Constitution (126th) Amendment Bill, which proposes to extend the reservation quota for the ST-SC community in legislatures for another 10 years, has been passed by the Lok Sabha. The bill does not include extension in the reservation quota of the Anglo-Indians.
12. The Andhra Pradesh Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, also known as the Disha Act, was passed by the Andhra Pradesh cabinet recently for its enactment. The Act proposes harsh punishment for those who commit a crime against women. The legislation aims to protect women and children in Andhra Pradesh. One of the sections of the act calls for speedy trial of a case involving a heinous crime against women such as rape.
13. The Union Home Ministry recently decided to set up women help desks from the Nirbhaya Fund in all the Police Stations of India. For this purpose, the Ministry has sanctioned Rs 100 crore. The move is expected to make the police stations more women-friendly and easily approachable. Women help desks will be the first and single point of contact for a woman to file a complaint in the police station.



14. The Uttar Pradesh government has approved the opening of 218 new fast track courts in the state. Among these, 144 new courts will hear only rape cases while 74 courts will hear Posco Act cases. Uttar Pradesh Law Minister Brajesh Pathak said in a press conference that 42,389 POCSO and 25,749 rape cases are pending in the state. As per the announcement, 60% of the expenditure on the formation of these courts will be handled by the Central Government and 40% by the State Government. Each court will cost Rs. 75 lakh.
15. The paramilitary forces including the CRPF, BSF, CISF and the NSG will now have to wear Khadi uniforms. This would almost double the business of the Khadi industry in India. It is expected to boost the 'Make in India' initiative.
16. The Supreme Court constituted a two-judge committee for speedy disposal of rape cases in India. The members of the committee are Justices R Subhash Reddy and MR Shah. The committee was constituted by the Chief Justice Bobde by exercising his administrative powers. The rape cases will be monitored at the High Courts.
17. The government of India has launched National Broadband Mission (NBM) with an aim to provide an internet connection to all villages by 2022. The affiliated parties will invest Rs 7 lakh crore in the coming years. In rural areas, broadband access will be made available on a universal and equal basis. Union Minister of Communications Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated this mission. He said that govt aims to improve the quality of mobile and internet services through National Broadband Mission. He also said that technology infrastructure will be strengthened in the fields of education, health, entrepreneurship, and development through this mission.
18. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced that the Delhi Cabinet has passed the Electric Vehicle Policy to tackle air pollution. Kejriwal said that the government will give subsidies to promote e-vehicles. He said that an electric vehicle board will be formed to implement this policy. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that the objective of this policy is to make Delhi the capital of electric vehicles in India.
19. The Cabinet has approved Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABY) on December 24, 2019. It is a Central Sector Scheme which will have a total outlay of 6,000 cr rupees. This scheme will be implemented in identified states like – Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. The states for this scheme have been selected according to the level of groundwater exploitation and degradation.
20. As per the information released by the government of India, Urban areas of 35 states and Union Territories have become Open defecation Free (ODF). Total 4,320 cities have declared themselves ODF. However, 4,167 cities of them have been declared ODF after third-party verification. Apart from that, Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry (HUAM) has released the ODF protocols, with emphasize on sustaining ODF outcomes and achieving holistic sanitation.
21. The Home Ministry has sanctioned Rs 100 crores from the Nirbhaya Fund for setting up women help desks in police Stations in all states and Union Territories (UT) across the country. The women help desks will be focused on making police stations more women-friendly and approachable. Women police officers will be deployed at the help desks which would be the first and single point of contact for any woman walking into a police station.
22. The Union Government has announced that it will provide free wifi services to all villages across India through its BharatNet project by March 2020. The free internet will be provided in schools, skill development centers and the health care centres in the villages. The project has also already been implemented in 1.3 lakh Gram Panchayats.
23. On December 29, 2019 the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has given its approval for a new Russian resolution which will draft a new international treaty to combat cyber-crime. The Russian draft resolution was approved by the 193-member world body of UNGA by a vote of 79-60 with 33 abstentions (declining to vote). The committee will meet in August 2020 to agree on an outline of its activities while the substantive work on the new convention will begin in 2021.
24. 8 West African Nations agreed to rename their common currency known as "CFA Franc" to "Eco" to sever the CFA franc's links to former colonial ruler France. This announcement in change to a new currency was made during French President Emmanuel Jean-Michel Frédéric Macron's visit to Ivory Coast, which is France's former main colony in West Africa and also the world's top cocoa producer. The 8 countries are Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

25. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has yet again extended the deadline to link PAN card with the Aadhaar till March 2020. The earlier deadline was December 31 and before that, September 30.
26. On December 13, 2019, Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Ltd (RSBVL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), has acquired a 51.78 % stake in Asteria Aerospace for Rs 23,12,49,584. This is 51.78 % of Asteria's equity share capital will further strengthen the RSBVL's initiatives in the emerging technology sector.
27. On December 13, 2019 the 16th annual ranking of 'The Forbes 2019 list of The World's 100 Most Powerful Women' list was released. The list was topped by German Chancellor Angela Dorothea Merkel, 65-year old, for the 9th consecutive year.
28. On 11th December 2019, the World's first fully electric commercial aircraft namely DHC-2 de Havilland Beaver takes test flight in Vancouver, Canada. Manufactured by Harbour Air and Magnix, the six-passenger e-plane's first flight involved 750-horsepower (560 kW) magni500 propulsion system, and was piloted by Greg McDougall, founder and Chief Executive of Harbour Air.
29. On December 6, 2019 India's leading stock exchange the National Stock Exchange (NSE) has appointed public interest Director Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as its new chairman. The appointment was done after market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) approval. Chaturvedi replaced Ashok Chawla, who resigned as a chairman in January 2019. Shri Chaturvedi who is a retired IAS Indian Administrative Service) officer has previously served as Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG).
30. On December 13, 2019, PhonePe Private Limited (PhonePe), an Indian e-commerce payment system and digital wallet company, has crossed 5 billion transactions on its app. In November 2018, PhonePe had touched the milestone of a billion transactions and achieved 5 times more unprecedented success in a year. It has over 175 million registered users in India.
31. As per the Union Minister of Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, India has become the 1st country where the entire process of Haj 2020 has gone 100% digital after he signed a bilateral agreement for the pilgrimage with the Saudi Haj Minister Dr Mohammad Saleh bin Taher Benteen in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on December 1, 2019.
32. Govt. has launched a scheme for the promotion of endangered languages in central and state universities. The scheme has been launched following recommendations of an expert committee constituted by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to look into the issues related to preservation and promotion of endangered languages.
33. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), has removed the 'Carnival of Aalst' of Belgium from its Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity List. The 2019 carnival featured a parade float that included racist and anti-Semitic representations that mocked the Orthodox Jews. The carnival was added to the Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2010. The carnival of Aalst is a three-day festival that is held annually in the Belgium city of Aalst.
34. The Forbes India magazine has published its list of celebrity 100 for the year 2019, which was based on the estimation of their annual earnings through professions and endorsement of celebrities and their frame from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019. According to the list of celebrity 2019, Indian Cricket team captain Virat Kohli has become the first sportsman to gain the top spot for the first time with the annual earnings of Rs. 252.72 crore. Kohli replaced Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, who had been at the top for the previous three years. Actor Akshay Kumar is at the second position followed by Salman Khan. Among females in top 10, Alia bhatt is at 8th position while Deepika Padukon is on 10th.
35. WADA's (World Anti-Doping Agency) Executive Committee has banned Russia from the Olympics and World Championships for 4 years. Russia has been banned, after it's capital Moscow trying to manipulate laboratory data by deleting and planting fake evidence to help them in their drug test. The WADA has first commissioned a report after finding evidence on mass doping in Russian athletics in the year 2015 and banned the Russian anti-doping agency (RUSADA) which was reinstated in the year 2018.
36. The International Cricket Council (ICC) recently released the ICC One Day International (ODI) rankings for batsmen. Virat Kohli is on number one position while Rohit Sharma will end 2019 as number two ODI player. Rohit Sharma broke a 22-year-old record of Sanath Jayasuriya for most runs in a calendar by an opener.

37. On December 11, 2019, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched India's radar imaging earth observation satellite RISAT-2BR1 on board PLSV-C48 (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-48). This is the 50th mission of PSLV and also the 75th vehicle mission from Sriharikota. The satellite was lifted from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) at Sriharikota. RISAT-2BR1 was followed by the successful launch of RISAT-2B in May 22, 2019.
38. 11th "INDRA 2019" which is a joint tri services exercise between India and Russia is to be held from December 10-19 2019. Both the nation's armed forces will jointly evolve drills to defeat the scourge of terror under the United Nations (UN) mandate. Esprit-de-corps and goodwill will be the key areas during the exercise which will facilitate further strengthening of bonds between the defence forces of India and Russia.
39. The 8th edition of the joint training exercise between India and China named "HAND-IN-HAND 2019" for the year 2019 held from December 7-20, 2019. The aim of this exercise is to practice joint planning and conduct of counter-terrorist operation in the semi-urban terrain. The theme for the exercise will be 'counter-terrorism under United Nations mandate'.
40. On December 27, 2019 the last of the iconic MiG-27 (Mikoyan MiG-27) fighter jet aircraft was decommissioned from the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Jodhpur base in Rajasthan. The aircraft served the IAF for over 3 decades (30 years). The Jodhpur airbase previously had the squadron of 7 MiG-27.
41. On December 17, 2019, in order to further strengthen the military ambitions, China has launched its 2nd aircraft carrier, named after the Shandong province, from Sanya, an important establishment in the South China Sea. It is China's 1st indigenously built aircraft carrier. Shandong is much larger than the China's current aircraft carrier 'Liaoning', which can carry 36 combat aircraft.
42. Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), a major space research centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has successfully launched Rohini (RH) 200 sounding rocket at 9.30 a.m from Thumba in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala under the mission to study changes in the earth's upper atmosphere during the eclipse.
43. On 27th December 2019, China launched its heaviest and most advanced communications satellite, Shijian-20 (means "Practice") by its largest new carrier rocket Long March-5 (also known as CZ-5) from Wenchang Space Launch Center (WSLC) in south China's Hainan Province. A new technology test and verification satellite, Shijian-20 weighs more than eight tonnes was developed by China Academy of Space Technology (CAST) under the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC).
44. On December 22, 2019, The United States (US) President Donald Trump has officially launched "US space force (USSF)", the 1st new US military service in more than 70 years focusing on warfare in space. Trump has signed the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act to make the formation of the space force into reality, which would set an initial budget for the Pentagon force that would be equivalent for the five other branches of the military.
45. The Ethiopian Remote Sensing Satellite-1 or ETRSS-1, was sent into space by a Chinese Long March 4B carrier rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in North China. ETRSS-1 is Africa's 41st satellite in space and the third East African satellite. Ethiopia is now the 11th African nation to launch a satellite into space by joining the ranks of Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Sudan.
46. For the 1st time India was ranked among the top ten countries in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2020, released by Germanwatch and NewClimate Institute report together with the Climate Action Network (CAN). India ranked 9th in the index in 2019. Previously in 2018, it ranked at the 11th place. The list was topped by Sweden ranking 4th on the list. The top three ranks were left empty. United States (US) ranked 61st (last) on the list as the worst climate change performer.
47. After 22 years of halt, the train service between Lahore and Wagah resumed on December 15, 2019. The fare for the train journey is PKR 30. Beginning from Lahore, it would take an hour for the train to reach Wagah. The train will undertake three trips and over 1000 passengers will be able to commute between the stations in these 3 trips.
48. The National Farmers Day 2019 was observed across India on December 23, 2019 to mark the birth anniversary of former Indian Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh. The Day is observed every year especially by states

- that are actively engaged in farming and agriculture such as Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and others.
49. Vijay Diwas is observed annually on December 16 celebrating India's victory over Pakistan in 1971 Indo-Pakistan war. The year 2019 marks the 48th anniversary of the victory against the war. The martyrs of the war were paid tributes on this day. Various leaders paid tribute at the National War Memorial in New Delhi. For the 1st time, Vijay Divas was celebrated at the National War Memorial. Special programmes were organised at the headquarters of the Eastern Command at the Fort William in Kolkata, West Bengal.
  50. On December 11, 2019, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) day was celebrated. UNICEF was created by the United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) on December 11, 1946, as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund to provide emergency food, nutrition, education to children, devastated due to World War II.
  51. On 10th December 2019, the Human Rights Day is observed for the empowerment and recognition of Human Rights across the World, the theme of Human Rights day 2019 is "Youth Standing Up for Human Rights". The day is observed to remember the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 10 December 1948.
  52. On 7th December 2019, Armed Forces Flag Day or Flag Day India is observed by the Ministry of Defence. This national day is observed every year on 7th December in India since 1949 to remember the sacrifices of soldiers and their families to safeguard the country. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister (PM) of India extended his appreciation to the armed forces on the occasion of the Armed Forces Flag Day.
  53. The Indian Navy Day is celebrated annually on December 4. This day is celebrated by the Indian Navy to commemorate the victory of the Indian Navy in the Indo-Pak war of 1971. Indian Navy destroyed Karachi port on this day in 1971.
  54. World AIDS Day is observed every year worldwide on December 1, 2019 to make people aware of HIV infection. In August 1987, it was celebrated globally for the first time.
  55. The International Slavery Abolition Day is observed every year on 02 December. This day is celebrated to spread awareness about ending human trafficking and exploitation of humans.
  56. The National Good Governance Day(GGD) is observed annually on December 25, to create awareness and promote good governance in the country and its citizens. This year, the date december 25th marked the 95th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
  57. 24th December is observed as the National Consumer Rights Day every year. The Consumer Protection Act received the President's approval on December 24, 1986. The main objective of the Consumer Protection Act is to provide consumers with effective safeguards against different types of exploitation such as defective goods, unsatisfactory services and unfair trade practices. Theme: Alternate consumer grievance/dispute redressal
  58. The International Human Solidarity Day is observed annually on December 20 by the United Nations(UN) under the resolution (A/RES/60/209). On December 22, 2005, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed to observe the solidarity day on December 20, to promote culture of solidarity and the spirit of sharing to combat poverty.
  59. On December 18, 2019, The International Migrants Day (IMD) observed across the world with the aim to raise awareness about the challenges and difficulties that are faced by international migrants.The theme for the year 2019 is "We Together."
  60. India's 1st transgender university will open in Fazilnagar block in UP's (Uttar Pradesh) Kushinagar district. It is being constructed by Akhil Bhartiya Kinnar Siksha Seva Trust (All-India transgender education service trust).

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