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**MONTHLY UPDATES ON  
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**WILEY**

## National

- India's **71th Republic Day** celebrated on January 26 with grand parade of its history, cultural diversity and strategic weaponry at the Rajpath, Delhi.



This ceremony commenced with Prime Minister Narendra Modi paying homage to martyrs at the National War Memorial with Amar Jawan Jyoti. This year, the chief guest was the **Brazilian president, Jair Messias Bolsonaro**. For the first time, a contingent of women bikers of CRPF performed daredevil stunts.

- At the parade of Republic day, the **Tableaux of Assam** wins the first prize among the all participated states and union territories.



The theme of Assam's tableau was **Land of unique craftsmanship and culture**, with the display of bamboo and cane work along with Bhortal Nritya performed by Xattriya dancers. This award was given by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Odisha and Uttar Pradesh won tied second prize. Odisha's tableau depicted Lord Lingaraja's Rukuna Rath Yatra whereas the tableau of Uttar Pradesh showcased the state's cultural and religious heritage. Also, Jammu and Kashmir participated in the parade for the first time as a Union Territory.

- The word **Samvidhan** (Constitution) named as the Oxford Hindi Word of 2019 by the Oxford University Press (OUP).



Image tweeted by @OxLanguages

This word received the widespread attention in the year which was witness to the spirit of the Indian Constitution being embraced across segments of the society.

- The Union Government has released the **State Energy Efficiency Index 2019**. The index was released during the 'Review, Planning and Monitoring (RPM)' meeting held in New Delhi. The index is developed by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) along with Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE). The SEE Index 2019 traces the expansion and achievements of Energy Efficiency (EE) drives running in 36 states and union territories. The SEE Index 2019 constitutes quantitative, qualitative and outcome based 97 indicators to check energy efficiency initiatives, programs and outcomes in five distinct areas: transport, industry, agriculture, buildings, municipalities, and DISCOMs.
- January 15 was observed as the **Indian Army Day**. This year the country celebrated 72nd Army Day.



This day celebrated every year to commemorate the day when General (later Field Marshal) K.M. Cariappa took over the command of Army from General Sir F.R.R. Bucher the last British Commander-in-Chief in 1949 and became the first Commander-in-Chief of Indian Army post Independence.



- ⊙ **National Highway Excellence Awards 2019** were presented by the Union Road, Transport and Highway Minister, Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi. These awards are categorized under 7 categories and instituted in the year 2018 and aim to recognize the well-performing companies in the field of construction, operations, maintenance, toll collection and road safety on National Highways.
- ⊙ A resolution to abolish the legislative council has adopted by the Andhra Pradesh cabinet chaired by the chief minister (CM) Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy.
- ⊙ The city of Madhya Pradesh, Indore again topped the **cleanliness charts** for two consecutive quarters among cities with over 10 lakh population. Kolkata was at the bottommost while Jamshedpur has topped the cleanliness charts for two consecutive quarters among cities with 1 lakh to 10 lakh population.
- ⊙ **Khelo India Youth Games**, season 3 concluded in Guwahati, Assam. The mascots of the tournament were, Vijay (the tiger) and Jaya (the blackbuck).
- ⊙ **Google** announced a grant of 1 million USD has announced to promote news literacy among Indians. The grant will be used to build a strong network against fake news producers in the country. On Approx. 300 workshops, boot camps and sessions are to be organized to train journalists, academicians and fast checkers on the authentication of the published content on the internet in 7 Indian languages.
- ⊙ Google has launched a new application called **Tangi**. The Tangi Application of Google focuses on **Do It Yourself** videos. The name of the application has been inspired from **TeAch aNd Give**.

## Economy

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- ⊙ The Reserve Bank of India has revised its supervisory framework for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) to expedite resolution of UCBs experiencing financial stress. The revised framework stipulates the thresholds for various parameters that could trigger a corrective action by the UCBs or a supervisory action by the central bank.
  - ⊙ Axis Bank and ICICI Bank will close the operations in Sri Lanka after receiving the permission of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
  - ⊙ An agreement has announced by Mastercard to acquire **RiskRecon**. RiskRecon is one of the leading providers of data analytics solutions and artificial intelligence focused on cyber-risk and security and offering solutions to mitigate cyber risks faced by the companies.
  - ⊙ Uber Technologies Inc and automaker Hyundai Motor came together to develop **electric air taxis** to ease urban congestion. The team is heading towards a goal of launching **Uber Air** by 2023 and **urban air mobility service** by 2028.
  - ⊙ **MANI** (Mobile Aided Note Identifier), a mobile app has launched by the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. This app is to help visually challenged people to identify the denomination of currency notes. It is available both on Android and iOS operating systems, can work offline after installing and the result will get in Hindi and English by audio output.
  - ⊙ New Supervisory Action Framework (SAF) rolled out by RBI to tighten norms for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs). These are the revised one and will be implemented with immediate effect. As per these norms, a UCB may be placed under SAF if its net NPAs exceed six per cent of its net advances and depending on the severity of stress.
  - ⊙ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted in-principle approval to Uttar Pradesh-based **Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd** to convert to a small finance bank (SFB).
- Maharashtra won 256 medals including 78 gold. Haryana stood second with a total of 200 medals. Delhi finished third with 122 medals. The most successful female player, Shivangi Sharma of Assam won five gold and two silver in swimming. Sprinter Hima Das was the torchbearer of the opening ceremony.
- ⊙ Three **welfare schemes** were launched by the Union minister for women and child development Smriti Irani in Goa. The schemes were:
    - (i) **Yashaswini Scheme for Women Entrepreneurship** provides interest-free loan up to 5 lakh with a tenure of 5 years to self-help groups with repayment starting from the second year and the loan to be paid in four instalments.
    - (ii) **Swasthya Sahayak Project** – a diagnostic kit will be supplied to primary healthcare workers and Anganwadi workers in the state to help them conduct basic diagnostic tests at people's doorstep so as to bring an affordable and convenient solution to the common man.
    - (iii) **Breast cancer screening initiative** – under this, the Anganwadi and healthcare workers will screen women for breast cancer, reaching out to the women in rural parts of the state.



### A multi-state bank

After this conversion, it will become the first urban cooperative bank (UCB) to make the transition.

- ◎ The Reserve Bank of India amended the **KYC** norms and allows banks and other lending institutions to use Video based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP).



The government notified this amendment to the Prevention of Money-laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005 and under this circular, the reporting entity should capture a clear image of PAN card to be displayed by the customer during the process.

- ◎ The Reserve Bank of India asked banks and other card-issuing companies to provide facility to customers to switch on and off their debit or credit cards and it should also include mobile application, internet banking, automated teller machines, or interactive voice response. It also proposed that all cards (physical and virtual) should be enabled for use only at contact based points of usage [ATMs and Point of Sale (PoS) devices within India. This move aims to enhance security for digital transactions.
- ◎ A penalty of ₹ 1 crore has been imposed on the HDFC Bank for compliance of master directions of KYC directions. The bank failed to undertake on-going due diligence in the case of 39 current accounts opened for bidding in Initial Public Offer.
- ◎ The Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) of Vodafone **m-pesa** has cancelled by the Reserve Bank of India after its voluntary surrender of authorisation.



- ◎ **Residential builder finance with buyer guarantee** (RBBG) scheme has announced by the State Bank of India aiming to give a push to residential sales and improves homebuyers' confidence. Initially, it will focus on affordable housing projects priced up to 2.50 crore rupees in 10 cities.

## Science and Technology

- ◎ ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation, started working towards the launching of vehicles, which will be capable of carrying satellites weighting 500 kg.



These vehicles will cost around ₹ 30 to 35 crores.

- ◎ **Bhuvan Panchayat version 3.0** launched by ISRO in the end of the month of January. It is basically a satellite application powered by ISRO which allows users to explore 2D and 3D representation of the earth. Under this project, the ISRO will collaborate with Gram panchayat members to understand their data requirements. The portal will function with the help of satellite technology of ISRO for two years. It aims to help village development planning process under the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- ◎ The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) displayed the **A-SAT weapon system** which is an Anti-Satellite Weapon System. India is now among one of the few countries in the world to own the technology.





- India's first **Super Fab Lab** was inaugurated in Kerala. This laboratory is to function in collaboration with Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA and is the only laboratory that is being installed outside US. The Super Fab Lab is being installed in collaboration with KSUM (Kerala Startup Mission). The laboratory will break down barriers between physical world and digital world.
- An infrastructure plan of ₹ 2700 crores to construct **Human Space Flight Infrastructure Centre** is proposed by the ISRO. The facility is to be set up at Challakere, Chitradurga district of Karnataka and is expected to become operational in three years.

## Persons in News

- V.K. Yadav** again appointed as the **Chairman of Railway Board** by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet for a period of one year.
- IAS **Dr. Kritika Shukla** and IPS **M. Deepika** appointed as the Special Officers for implementing the Andhra Pradesh Disha Act 2019 by the Andhra Pradesh government.



- The proposal of Ministry of Home Affairs for extending the deputation tenure of IPS Abhinav Kumar, Inspector General, Border Security Force (BSF), up to June 27, 2021 has approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- Sunil Mehta** took the charge of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) succeeding V.G. Kannan.
- Taranjit Singh Sandhu** took charge as the new Indian Ambassador to the United States. He will succeed Harsh Vardhan Shringla.
- Marjan Sarec**, the Prime Minister of Slovenian announced his resignation and called for new elections as the country's coalition struggles with political deadlock.
- PM **Narendra Modi** paid his tribute to the Indian Social Reformer Savitribai Phule on her birth occasion on January 3.



She was born in the year 1831. She is considered as the first female teacher of India and played vital role in improving women rights in the country. Along with her husband Jyotirao Phule, she founded the India's first girls' school in Pune in 1848. She worked hard to abolish gender discrimination and caste discrimination.

- Kobe Bryant**, the NBA (National Basketball Association) star died in a helicopter crash.



He retired from the game in 2016. He won two gold medals in 2008 and 2012 Olympics. He won 5 championships (in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2009 and 2010) and was the first guard in the American history to play 20 seasons.

- Vidya Bal** – Social Activist, Feminist passed away on January 30, 2020. She was known for her heroic oppressive practices involving women. She was a forefront fighter for women equality with men.
- Noted Sindhi writer **Vasdev Mohi** will be honoured with 29th **Saraswati Samman**. He has been selected for his short stories collection, *Chequebook*, published in 2012. This short stories collection talks about the agonies and sufferings of marginalized sections of the society. He also received the Sahitya Akademi Award.

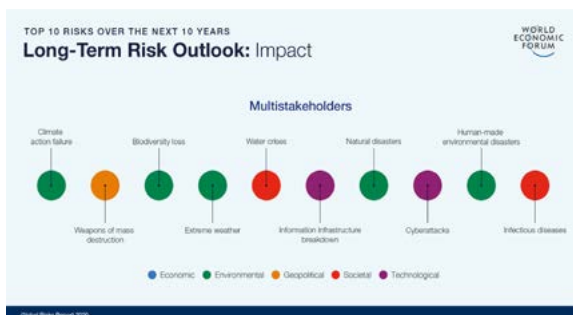
- Indian Lawyer **Harish Salve** appointed in the Queen Elizabeth II's counsel of Senior Advocate for the courts of England and Wales.



His name featured in the list of silk appointments released by the UK. The title of Queen's Counsel is awarded to those who have demonstrated particular skill and expertise in the conduct of advocacy.

## Plans and Policies

- The 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum begins in Davos, Switzerland. The Indian was led by the Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. This year programme will focus on achieving the maximum impact on the Forum's platform for public-private cooperation. The theme is **Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World**.
- The World Economic Forum has released the **The Global Risks Report 2020**. The Global Risks Report 2020 is the 15th edition of the WEF's Global Risks Report prepared in partnership with Marsh & McLennan and Zurich Insurance Group.



**Top 10 risks by Impact:** Climate action failure, Weapons of mass destruction, Biodiversity loss, Extreme weather, Water crisis, Information infrastructure breakdown, Natural disasters, Cyberattacks, Human-made environmental disasters and Infectious diseases.

**Top 10 risks by Likelihood:** Extreme weather, Climate action failure, Natural disaster, Biodiversity loss, Human-made environmental disasters, Data fraud, Cyberattacks, Water crisis, Global governance failure and Asset bubble.

- Shiv Bhojan scheme** is launched by the Maharashtra government which aims to provide a meal to the poor for just ₹ 10, on the occasion of the 71st Republic Day.
- Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana** has launched by the Uttar Pradesh Government to provide financial assistance to the family of farmers (of the age group of 18-70 years) who die or become handicapped while working in fields.

## Awards and Honours

- The **Padma Awards** announced on Republic Day (that is, January 26). These awards are the highest civilian awards and categorized in *Padma Vibhushan*, *Padma Bhushan* and *Padma Shri*; in the various disciplines/fields.



Padma Vibhushan Padma Bhushan Padma Shri

**Padma Vibhushan:** The second-highest civilian award in India; for exceptional and distinguished service.

**Padma Bhushan:** The third-highest civilian award in India; for distinguished service of a high order.

**Padma Shri:** The fourth-highest civilian award in India; for distinguished service in any field.

This year, 7 *Padma Vibhushan*, 16 *Padma Bhushan* and 118 *Padma Shri* Awards were announced in which 12 were **Posthumous** awardees.

The list consists of all awardees is as follows:

Padma Vibhushan	
Name	Field
Arun Jaitley (Posthumous)	Public Affairs
Sushma Swaraj (Posthumous)	Public Affairs
George Fernandes (Posthumous)	Public Affairs
Anerood Jugnauth GCSK	Public Affairs
M. C. Mary Kom	Sports
Vishveshateertha Swamiji Sri Pejavara Adhokhaja Matha Udipi (Posthumous)	Spiritualism
Chhannulal Mishra	Art

Padma Bhushan	
Name	Field
Neelakanta Ramakrishna Madhava Menon (Posthumous)	Public Affairs
Syed Muazzem Ali (Posthumous)	Public Affairs
Manohar Gopalkrishna Prabhu Parrikar (Posthumous)	Public Affairs
Muzaffar Hussain Baig	Public Affairs
S. C. Jamir	Public Affairs
P. V. Sindhu	Sports
Manoj Das	Literature and Education
Prof. Jagdish Sheth	Literature and Education
Ajoy Chakravorty	Art
Venu Srinivasan	Trade and Industry
Anand Mahindra	Trade and Industry
Krishnammal Jagannathan	Social Work
Anil Prakash Joshi	Social Work
Dr. Tsering Landol	Medicine
Balkrishna Doshi	Others-Architecture
M. Mumtaz Ali	Others-Spiritualism

Padma Shri	
Name	Field
Manmohan Mahapatra (Posthumous)	Art
Kalee Shabi Mahaboob & Sheik Mahaboob Subani (Duo)	Art
V. K. Munusamy Krishnapakthar	Art
Ekta Kapoor	Art
Ustad Anwar Khan Mangniyar	Art
Munna Master	Art
Moozhikkal Pankajakshi	Art
Manilal Nag	Art
Kangana Ranaut	Art
Dalavai Chalapathi Rao	Art
Adnan Sami	Art
Yazdi Naoshirwan Karanjia	Art
Daya Prakash Sinha	Art
Shyam Sunder Sharma	Art
Suresh Wadkar	Art
Karan Johar	Art

Padma Shri	
Name	Field
Sarita Joshi	Art
Shanti Jain	Art
Guru Shashadhar Acharya	Art
Ms. Indira P. P. Bora	Art
Shri Madan Singh Chauhan	Art
Ms. Lalitha & Ms. Saroja Chidambaram (Duo)*	Art
Dr. Vajira Chitrasena	Art
Dr. Purushottam Dadheech	Art
Shri Utsav Charan Das	Art
Shri Yadla Gopal Rao	Art
Shri Mitrabhanu Gountia	Art
Shri Manohar Devadoss	Art
Shri Madhu Mansuri Hasmukh	Art
Dr. Yogi Aeron	Medicine
Dr. Padmavathy Bandopadhyay	Medicine
Dr. Sushovan Banerjee	Medicine
Dr. Digambar Behera	Medicine
Dr. Bangalore Gangadhar	Medicine
Dr. Leela Joshi	Medicine
Dr. Narindar Nath Khanna	Medicine
Dr. Ravi Kannan R.	Medicine
Dr. Kushal Konwar Sarma	Medicine
Dr. Gurdip Singh	Medicine
Dr. Sandra Desa Souza	Medicine
Smt. (Dr.) Shanti Roy	Medicine
Dr. Arunoday Mondal	Medicine
Dr. Tetsu Nakamura (Posthumous)	Social Work
Shri Abdul Jabbar (Posthumous)	Social Work
Shri Sayed Mehboob Shah Qadri alias Sayedbhai	Social Work
Shri Mohammed Sharif	Social Work
Shri Kalyan Singh Rawat	Social Work
Shri Javed Ahmad Tak	Social Work
Shri S. Ramakrishnan	Social Work
Shri Ramjee Singh	Social Work
Shri M. K. Kunjoll	Social Work
Shri Jagdish Lal Ahuja	Social Work
Shri Pawar Popatrao Bhaguji	Social Work
Shri Himmata Ram Bhambhu	Social Work

Padma Shri	
Name	Field
Ms. Usha Chaumar	Social Work
Ms. Lia Diskin	Social Work
Shri Harekala Hajabba	Social Work
Ms. Tulasi Gowda	Social Work
Shri Sundaram Verma	Social Work
Shri Bimal Kumar Jain	Social Work
Shri Agus Indra Udayana	Social Work
Shri Sathyanarayan Mundayoor	Social Work
Prof. Indra Dassanayake (Posthumous)	Literature and Education
Shri Vijayasarithi Sribhashyam	Literature and Education
Shri Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi	Literature and Education
Shri Robert Thurman	Literature and Education
Shri H. M. Desai	Literature and Education
Kazi Masum Akhtar	Literature and Education
Ms. Gloria Arieira	Literature and Education
Dr. Damayanti Beshra	Literature and Education
Shri Lil Bahadur Chettri	Literature and Education
Ms. Meenakshi Jain	Literature and Education
Shri C. Kamlova	Literature and Education
Shri Benichandra Jamatia	Literature and Education
Shri S. P. Kothari	Literature and Education
Shri Narayan J. Joshi Karayal	Literature and Education
Prof. Abhiraj Rajendra Mishra	Literature and Education
Ms. Binapani Mohanty	Literature and Education
Shri Shiv Datt Nirmohi	Literature and Education
Dr. Prithwindra Mukherjee	Literature and Education
Shri N. Chandrasekharan Nair	Literature and Education
Dr. Prasanta Kumar Pattanaik	Literature and Education
Shri Jogendra Nath Phukan	Literature and Education
Shri Yogesh Praveen	Literature and Education
Shri Shahbuddin Rathod	Literature and Education
Shri Pu Lalbiakthanga Pachuau	Literature and Education-Journalism
Shri K. V. Sampath Kumar & Ms. Vidushi Jayalakshmi K.S. (Duo)*	Literature and Education-Journalism
Shri Chewang Motup Goba	Trade and Industry
Shri Bharat Goenka	Trade and Industry
Shri Jai Prakash Agarwal	Trade and Industry
Shri Sanjeev Bikhchandani	Trade and Industry
Shri Gafurbhai M. Bilakhia	Trade and Industry

Padma Shri	
Name	Field
Shri Nemnath Jain	Trade and Industry
Shri Vijay Sankeshwar	Trade and Industry
Dr. Romesh Tekchand Wadhvani	Trade and Industry
Shri Prem Watsa	Trade and Industry
Shri Vashishtha Narayan Singh (Posthumous)	Science and Engineering
Shri Harish Chandra Verma	Science and Engineering
Shri Pradeep Thalappil	Science and Engineering
Shri Naveen Khanna	Science and Engineering
Shri Sudhir Jain	Science and Engineering
Shri Kattungal Subramaniam Manilal	Science and Engineering
Dr. Raman Gangakhedkar	Science and Engineering
Shri Sujoy K. Guha	Science and Engineering
Ms. Oinam Bembem Devi	Sports
Khan Zaheer Khan Bakhtiyarkhan	Sports
Shri M. P. Ganesh	Sports
Shri Jitu Rai	Sports
Shri Tarundeep Rai	Sports
Ms. Rani Rampal	Sports
Shri Bob Blackman	Public Affairs
Shri Barry Gardiner	Public Affairs
Shri Enamul Haque	Others-Archaeology
Ms. Trinity Saioo	Others-Agriculture
Shri Chintala Venkat Reddy	Others-Agriculture
Ms. Rahibai Soma Popere	Others-Agriculture
Shri Radhamohan & Ms. Sabarmatee (Duo)*	Others-Agriculture
Shri Batakrushna Sahoo	Others-Animal Husbandry

- © The 62nd Annual Grammy Awards announced at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. It was hosted by Singer-songwriter Alicia Keys.





The winners of **Grammy Awards 2020** are as follows:

S. No.	Category	Winner
1.	Album of the year	When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?
2.	Record of the year	Bad Guy
3.	Song of the year	Bad Guy
4.	Best Comedy Album	While I'm Livin'
5.	Best Rap Album	Igor
6.	Best Folk Album	Patty Griffin
7.	Best Country Album	Sticks & Stones
8.	Best New Artist	Billie Eilish
9.	Best Rock Album	Social Cues
10.	Best Rock Song	This Land
11.	Best Dance/Electronic Album	No Geography
12.	Producer of the year (Classical)	Blanton Alspaugh
13.	Best Music Video	Old Town Road
14.	Best Country Song	Bring My Flowers Now
15.	Best Rap Song	A Lot
16.	Best R&B Album	Ventura

© ICC has announced the list of winners under different categories for the year 2019.



The winners are as follows:

S. No.	Category	Cricketer	Country
1.	Best Cricketer of the Year (Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy)	Ben Stokes	England
2.	Test Cricketer of the Year	Pat Cummins	Australia
3.	ODI Cricketer of the Year	Rohit Sharma (India)	India
4.	T20I Performance of the Year	Deepak Chahar	India
5.	Emerging Cricketer of the Year	Marnus Labuschagne	Australia
6.	Associate Cricketer of the Year	Kyle Coetzer	Scotland
7.	Spirit of Cricket Award	Virat Kohli	India
8.	David Shepherd Trophy for Umpire of the Year	Richard Illingworth	England
9.	Fans' Moment of the Year 2018	India's win of U19 Cricket World Cup 2018	