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**ENGLISH  
JANUARY - 2020**

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Plot No 1742, 1st Floor, 18th Main Road, Anna Nagar West, Chennai – 600 040

**Contact : 044-43533445 | 044-45543082.**

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## **JANUARY- 2020**

### **TAMIL NADU**

#### 1) **THIRUVALLUVAR DAY AWARDS – 2020:**

AWARDS	RECIPIENTS
Kamarajar Award	M S Mathivanan
Periyar Award	Senji S Ramachandran
Ke. Aa. Pe Viswanatham Award	Manimegalai Kannan
Bharathidasan Award	Thenisai Chellapa
Thiru.Vi.Ka Award	S Sundararasan
Bharathiyar Award	P Sivaraj
Perarignar Anna Award	K Samarasam
Ambedkar Award	K Arjunan
Thiruvalluvar Award	Nithyananda Bharathi
Perarignar Anna Award	K Samarasam
Kabilar Award	Vetriyazhagan
Kambar Award	Saraswathi Ramanathan
U. Ve. Sa. Award	V. Mahadevan
Sollin Selvar Award	Kavidasan
Umaruppulavar Award	Liakath Ali Khan
G.U. Pope Award	Maria Joseph Xavier
Ilango Adigal Award	Thirugnanasambandham
Amma Literary Award	Umayal Muthu
Singaravelar Award	S.K. Subramanian
Maraimalai Adigalar Award	P. Muthukumaraswamy
Ayothidas Pandithar Award	V. Prabhakaran
Thamizhthai Award for 2019	Chicago Tamil Sangam



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2) **COMMITTEES:**

<b>Justice K. Chandru Committee</b>	The State government has appointed Justice K. Chandru, retired judge of Madras High Court as the chairman of a fee - fixation committee for private agricultural colleges in the State. His name was nominated by Chief Justice Amreshwar Pratap Sahi.
<b>Justice C Manickam Committee</b>	To organize Jallikattu 2020 in Avaniyapuram, Palamedu and Alanganallur in Madurai

- 3) **Riya**, a *transgender*, became the **first person from the community** to get elected as Tiruchengode Panchayat Union member from Karuveppampetti ward.
- 4) **J Sandhiya Rani**, a 21-year old has become the **youngest woman village panchayat president** in the state to get elected as Kattinaikanthotty village panchayat in Krishnagiri district
- 5) In Tamil Nadu, **“One Nation – One Ration Card Scheme”** was implemented first time in **Tirunelveli and Tuticorin districts** on pilot basis.
- 6) **India’s highest Female Child Birth rate has been Registered in Tamil Nadu:**
  - ✓ India = 914 Females / 1000 Males
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu = 943 Females / 1000 Males
- 7) In **Uzhavan app**, 3 more services such as **FARM GUIDE, ORGANIC PRODUCTS and FPO PRODUCTS** are added, already there 14 services in the app.
- 8) The **222 Squadron (Tiger Sharks Squadron)** of Sukhoi - 30MKI fighter jets was inducted by the Indian Air Force in **Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu**.
- 9) The **Goat Research Institute** will be set up at **Sankarankoil in Tenkasi district**
- 10) **Tamil Nadu Assembly** passed the Bills to rename Tamil Nadu Fisheries University and Tamil Nadu Music and Fine Arts University as **“Tamil Nadu Dr. J.Jayalalithaa Fisheries University (TNJFU) and Tamil Nadu Dr. J.Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University (TNMFAU)”** after the late Chief Minister and AIADMK leader J Jayalalithaa.



- 11) **Tamil Nadu** has retained the *third rank in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index 2019*, released by NITI Aayog.
- 12) **Thiruverkadu Police** had introduced the first set of boards with *QR (quick response) codes* recently within their limits. *The boards are intended to help people find the nearest police station.*
- 13) **Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated the **173<sup>rd</sup> annual Thyagaraja Aradhana** in Thiruvaiyaru on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2020.
- 14) **Tamil Nadu** has received an award from the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for *“Best Performance in Road Safety”*
- 15) **The Governments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala** planned to conduct a joint study of the archaeological sites at *Muziris near Kodungallur, Kerala, and Keeladi in Sivaganga district.*

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## **NATIONAL**

- 1) India celebrated its **71<sup>st</sup> Republic Day on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

✓ **CHIEF GUEST:** Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro

- 2) The Andhra Pradesh Assembly has passed **The Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Equal Development of All Regions Bill, 2020**. This law paves the way for **three capitals for the state**.

<b>Amaravati</b>	Legislative Capital
<b>Visakhapatnam</b>	Executive Capital
<b>Kurnool</b>	Judicial capital

- 3) **Telangana state** has declared the **“Year 2020 as the Year of Artificial Intelligence”**
- 4) The Railways has renamed the **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** as **“Indian Railway Protection Force Service”**
- 5) The central government told the Supreme Court that **state governments were free to decide whether to implement the 10% reservation for the economically backward in jobs and admissions**.
- 6) Cabinet approves **Extension of term of the commission constituted under Article 340** of the constitution **to examine the issue of Sub - categorization within other Backward Classes in the Central List**.
- 7) The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has declared the **entire State of Nagaland as a “disturbed area”** for six more months, under **the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA)**.
- 8) **India achieved complete phase out of HCFC - 141 b**, one of the most potent ozone depleting chemical after **Chloro Fluoro Carbons (CFCs)**
- 9) From 2020, people in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will have a **public holiday on October 26 for the first time**. The day, which will be observed as Accession Day, marks the signing of the Instrument of Accession by the last Dogra ruler of J&K, Maharaja Hari Singh, with the then Governor-General of India, Lord Mountbatten.





- 10) **Kerala and Chhattisgarh** have filed a suit in the Supreme Court challenging the constitutional validity of various central laws such as **Citizenship Amendment Act (Kerala) and the National Investigation Agency Act (Chhattisgarh)**, under **Article 131** of the Indian Constitution.
- 11) **Kerala** has become the **1<sup>st</sup> state in India to pass an Anti - Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)**
- 12) India's First **"Rehabilitation Centre for Freshwater Turtles"** has been opened in **Bihar**
- 13) **Andhra Pradesh Cabinet** has approved a statutory resolution **seeking the abolition of the Legislative Council**.
- 14) **Ministry of Law and Justice** has started a scheme for setting up **1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for rape and POSCO act cases, as a part of National Mission for Safety of Women (NMSW)**.
- 15) The **3<sup>rd</sup> Bodo Peace Accord** as tripartite agreement between **the Centre, Assam Government and the banned Assam-based insurgent group National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB)** was signed on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020, for bringing a lasting peace in Bodo-dominated areas in Assam.
- 16) A four-party agreement among **the Centre, Mizoram government, Tripura government, and leaders of Bru community** was signed to end the 23 - year old Bru - Reang refugee crisis.
- 17) The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** and Gujarat's forest department joined together for the first time a process **to restore coral reefs using the bio rock technology**. A bio rock structure was installed one nautical mile off the Mithapur coast in the Gulf of Kachchh.
- 18) **The Ramsar Convention has declared 10 more wetlands in India** as sites of international importance.

STATE	RAMSAR SITES	SIGNIFICANCE
<b>Maharashtra</b>	Nandur Madhameshwar	✓ It is the <b>first Ramsar site in Maharashtra</b> . ✓ It is a mosaic of lakes, marshes and riparian forest on the Deccan Plateau
	Saman Bird Sanctuary - Mainpuri	Seasonal oxbow lake on the

<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>		Ganges flood plain
	Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary - Unnao	Shallow marshland
	Samaspur Bird Sanctuary - Raebareli	Perennial lowland marsh typical of the Indo-Gangetic Plains
	Sandi Bird Sanctuary - Hardoi	It is a freshwater marsh, also designated as Important Bird Area by Birdlife International
	Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary	Permanent freshwater environment consisting of two oxbow lakes
	Sarsai Nawar Jheel - Etawah	Wetland of the Indo - Gangetic floodplain
<b>Punjab</b>	Beas Conservation Reserve	re-introduce the critically endangered gharial
	Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary	Located in the Shiwalik foothills of Punjab which is highly eco-sensitive
	Keshopur - Miani Community Reserve	It is a mosaic of natural marshes, aquaculture ponds and agricultural wetlands maintained by the annual Rainfall runoff.

- 19) **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** has set up the **Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Blockchain Technology** in Bengaluru, Karnataka
- 20) **Nagardhan excavations:** Archaeological excavations at Nagardhan, near **Nagpur**, have provided the evidence on the life, religious affiliations and trade practices of the **Vakataka dynasty** and also about the **Vakataka rule under Queen Prabhavatigupta**
- 21) **Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan**, passed a resolution demanding the declaration of **Marathi as a 'Classical' language**
- 22) **Ministry of Finance** announced on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 that the union government will achieve the aim of **Housing for All by 2022 under the scheme of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Grameen (PMAY-G)**.
- 23) **Hyderabad** has been named as the **most dynamic city in the world by Jones Lang Lasalle (JLL)**



- 24) Recently, Supreme Court has approved the **import of “African Cheetahs” from Namibia**
- 25) **Andhra Pradesh** will launch the “**Jagananna Amma Vodi programme**” a financial assistance of ₹15,000 will be provided to **Parents or guardians who send their children to school.**
- 26) **Gujarat Government** to set up “**Vikram Sarabhai Children Innovation Center**” to identify, nurture and promote innovation by children in the state.
- 27) **Andhra Pradesh Government** signed Memorandum of Understanding with a **German firm to implement Zero Budget Natural Farming in the state.**
- 28) **Gujarat Government** has decided **to import water - soluble fertilizers from China**
- 29) The Union Government has proposed **to conduct “Saksham campaigns” across the country to highlight the importance of fuel conservation**
- 30) **Punjab** became the second state in the country after Kerala **to pass an assembly resolution seeking repeal of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020**
- 31) The Union Government renamed its “**National TB Control Programme**” to “**National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme**”
- 32) Oxford University Press **named “Samvidhaan” (Constitution) as the Oxford Hindi Word of 2019**
- 33) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has recommended the Central Government to declare **Ladakh as a Tribal area under the 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule of Indian constitution**
- 34) **The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) observed 2020 as the Year of Mobility for the welfare of the troops.**





## **INTERNATIONAL**

- 1) **China** has celebrated the Year 2020 as the **“YEAR OF RAT”**
- 2) **World Health Organisation (WHO)** selected the year 2020 as the **“Year of the Nurse and Midwife”**
- 3) **India will overtake Germany to become the world’s fourth largest economy in 2026.**
- 4) **The Statue of Unity in Gujarat** has been included in **8 wonders of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization)**

**8 wonders of SCO are:**

<b>India</b>	Statue of Unity
<b>China</b>	Daming Palace
<b>Tajikistan</b>	Navruz Palace
<b>Pakistan</b>	Mughals Heritage
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Tamgaly Gorge
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	Po-i-Kalan Complex
<b>Russia</b>	The Golden Ring of Russia
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	Lake Issyk-kul

- 5) **Palau** (located in the western Pacific Ocean) has become **first country to ban sun cream that is harmful to corals and sea life.**
- 6) Queen Elizabeth II gave her **assent for Brexit bill** on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 to expedite **the exit of Britain from the European Union by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020**
- 7) **Australia is facing worst wildfires seen in decades** that led to a huge humanitarian and environmental crisis
- 8) US President Donald Trump unveiled his Middle East peace plan, **Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People** aimed at solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



- 9) **China has deployed an airship near South China Sea (SCS)** to monitor and control military activity in the area by other countries, especially the United States.
- 10) According to the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** report ***China is the second biggest weapon producer country after the USA.***
- 11) **The International Court of Justice** has ordered the Myanmar government ***to take strict steps to protect the Rohingya community from genocide.***
- 12) **Ghana** has sought to replicate the ***Indian Government's Ujjwala scheme to provide access to clean cooking fuel (LPG) for poor households at affordable rates***

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## ECONOMICS

### 1) BUDGET 2020 – 2021:

**31<sup>st</sup> January 2020:** The President of India, **Mr. Ram Nath Kovind**, addressed a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament.

**1<sup>st</sup> February 2020:** **Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman** presented the Budget for the year 2020 – 2021.

#### Important Speech:

- ✓ Our government shall encourage balanced use of all kinds of fertilizers including the traditional organic and other innovative fertilizers.
- ✓ This is a necessary step to change the prevailing incentive regime, which encourages excessive use of chemical fertilisers.

புமி திருத்தி உண்

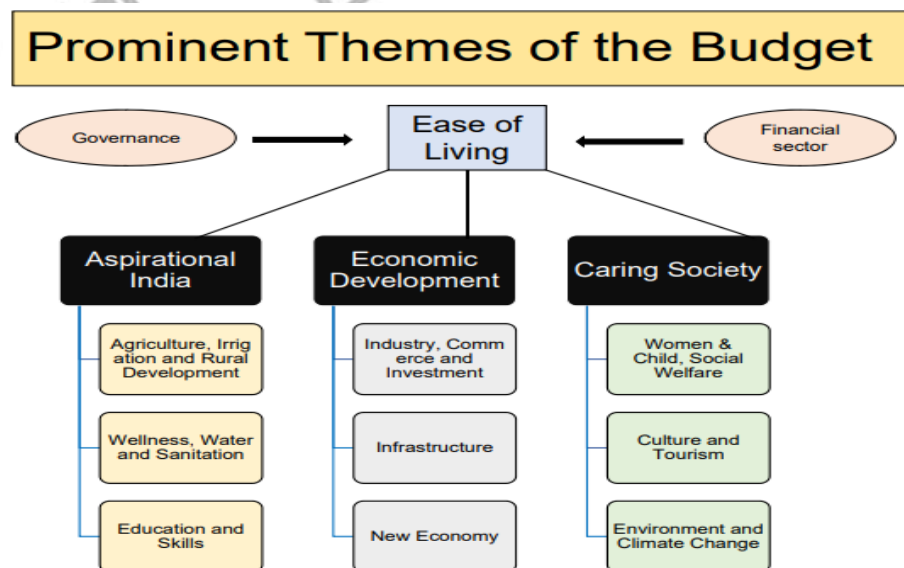
ஆத்திச்சூடி - 82

Bhumi tiruthi Unn

- Wise, Old Tamil Woman Saint poet Aauvaiyar – Sangam Era  
"Aaathichoodi" verse 81

The meaning of this saying is that one must "first tend to till one's land and then eat". One must eat only after work.

**Source:** <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/doc/bh1.pdf>



## GOVERNANCE

### STRUCTURAL REFORMS

#### IBC

- Honourable exit through IBC for companies.

#### GST

- 20 per cent reduction in turn around time for trucks.
- Benefit to MSMEs through enhanced threshold and composition limits.
- Savings of about 4 per cent of monthly spending for an average household.
- In last 2 years, 60 lakh new taxpayers added and 105 crore e-way bills generated

### DIGITAL REVOLUTION

#### Shift to DBT

- During 2018-19, ₹7 lakh crore transferred through DBT.

#### Next wave

- Digital Governance.
- Improve physical quality of life through National Infrastructure Pipeline
- Disaster Resilience.
- Social Security through Pension and Insurance penetration.

### INCLUSIVE GROWTH

- Governance guided by "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" with focus on:
  - Preventive Healthcare: Provision of sanitation and water
  - Healthcare: Ayushman Bharat
  - Clean energy: Ujjawala and Solar Power
  - Financial Inclusion, Credit support and Pension
  - Affordable Housing
  - Digital penetration

## FINANCIAL SECTOR



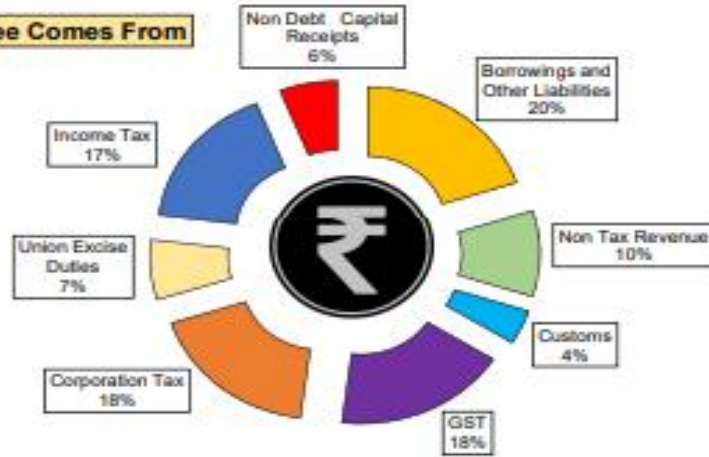
- Deposit Insurance Coverage to increase from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 Lakh per depositor.
- Eligibility limit for NBFCs for debt recovery under SARFAESI Act proposed to be reduced to asset size of ₹100 crore or loan size of ₹50 Lakh.
- Proposal to sell balance holding of government in IDBI Bank.
- Separation of NPS Trust for government employees from PFRDA.

- Specified categories of government securities would be opened for non resident investors
- FPI Limit for corporate bonds to be increased to 15 per cent.
- New debt ETF proposed mainly for government securities.

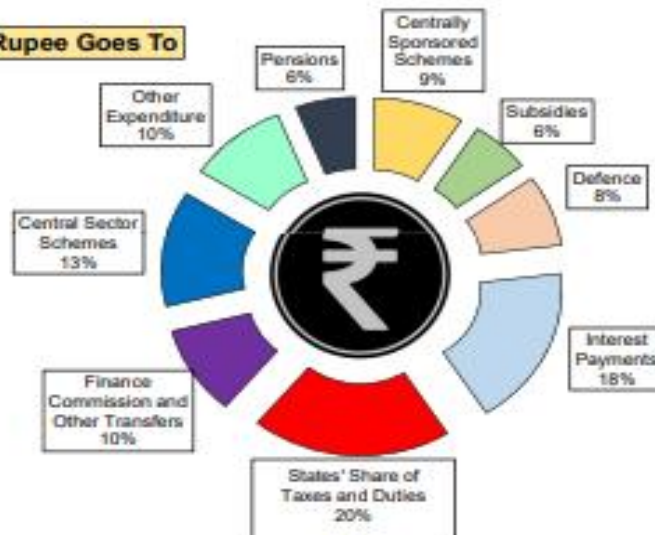


## Budget at a Glance

### Rupee Comes From



### Rupee Goes To





## Tax proposals



- Concessional corporate tax rate of 15 per cent to new domestic companies in manufacturing and power sector.
- Tax concession for sovereign wealth fund of foreign governments and other foreign investments.
- Tax benefits to Start-ups by way of deduction of 100 per cent of their profits are enhanced by increasing turnover limit and period of eligibility.
- Concessional tax rate for cooperatives proposed.
- Turnover threshold for audit of MSMEs increased.
- Extension of time limits pertaining to the tax benefits for affordable housing.
- Issuance of Unique Registration Number to all charity institutions for easy tax compliance.
- Health cess to be imposed on imports of medical equipment given these are made significantly in India.



Dividend Distribution Tax removed and classical system of dividend taxation adopted.



Simplified and New Income Tax Regime as an option to the old regime.

Income Bracket (₹ lakh)	Below 5	5-7.5	7.5-10	10-12.5	12.5-15	Above 15
Tax Rate (per cent)	Exempt	10	15	20	25	30



Simplified GST return shall be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. Refund process to be fully automated.

## Wellness, Water and Sanitation



- More than 20,000 empanelled hospitals under PM Jan Arogya Yojana.
- FIT India movement launched to fight NCDs.

Coverage under Nikshay Poshan Yojana (₹ Lakh)

35

- "TB Harega Desh Jeetega" campaign launched to end TB by 2025.

- Viability gap funding proposed for setting up hospitals in the PPP mode.
- Expansion of Jan Aushadhi Kendra Scheme to all districts by 2024.



- ODF Plus to sustain ODF behaviour.
- Focus on liquid and grey water management along with waste management.

## Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Development

PM KUSUM to cover 20 lakh farmers for stand alone solar pumps and further 15 lakh for grid connected pumps.

- Viability gap funding for creation of efficient warehouses on PPP mode.
- SHGs run Village storage scheme to be launched.
- Integration of e-NWR with e-NAM.



"Kisan Rail" and "Krishi Udaan" to be launched by Indian Railways and Ministry of Civil Aviation respectively for a seamless national cold supply chain for perishables.

- Elimination of FMD and brucellosis in cattle and PPR in sheep and goat by 2025.
- Increasing coverage of artificial insemination to 70 per cent.
- Doubling of milk processing capacity by 2025.
- Agricultural credit target of ₹15 lakh crore for 2020-21.



- Fish Production target of 200 lakh tonnes by 2022-23.
- Another 45000 acres of aqua culture to be supported.
- Fishery extension through 3477 Sagar Mitras and 500 fish FPOs.
- Raise fishery exports to ₹1 lakh crore by 2024-25.

## Industry, Commerce and Investment



- Scheme to encourage manufacturing of mobile phones, electronic equipment and semi conductor packaging.
- National Technical Textiles Mission for a period of 4 years.

- NIRVIK Scheme for higher export credit disbursement launched.
- Setting up of an Investment Clearance Cell to provide end to end facilitation.



- Extension of invoice financing to MSMEs through TReDs.
- A scheme to provide subordinate debt for entrepreneurs of MSMEs.
- Scheme anchored by EXIM Bank and SIDBI to handhold MSMEs in exports markets.

## Infrastructure



- National Logistics Policy to be launched soon.
- **Roads:** Accelerated development of Highways.
- **Railways:** Four station redevelopment projects
- 150 passenger trains through PPP mode.
- More Tejas type trains for tourist destinations.
- **Port:** Corporatizing at least one major port.
- **Air:** 100 more airports to be developed under UDAAN.



- **Power:** Efforts to replace conventional energy meters by prepaid smart meters.

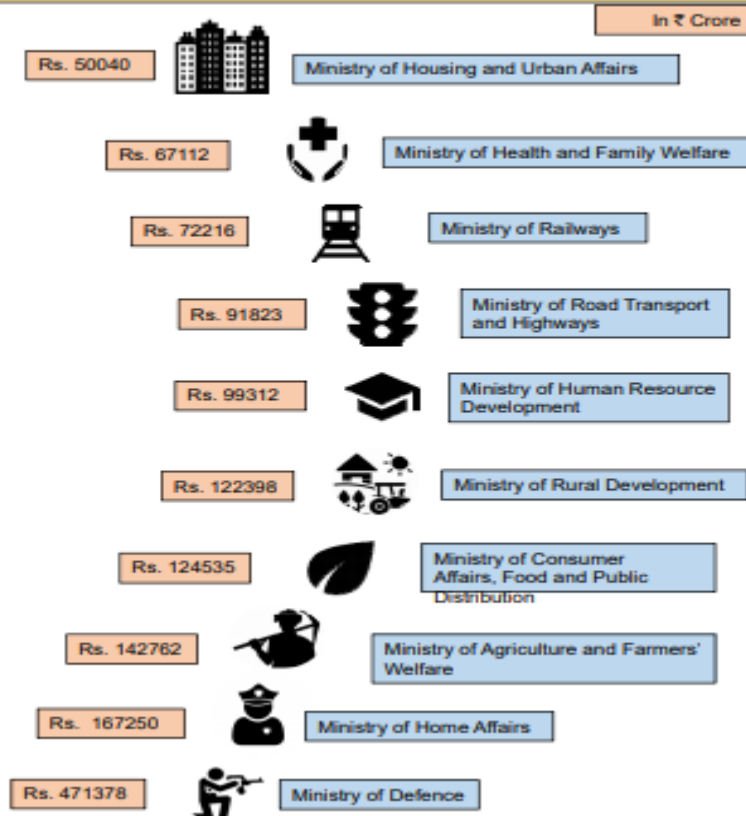


- **Gas Grid:** Expand National Gas Grid to 27,000 km

- **Infrastructure Financing:** ₹103 lakh crore National infrastructure Pipeline projects announced.
- An international bullion exchange to be set up at GIFT City.



## Expenditure of major items



- 2) The **15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission** submitted its report with recommendations for the ***financial year 2020 - 2021***.
- 3) **Reserve Bank of India** released National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) for ***2019 – 2024***.
- 4) The Competition Commission of India (CCI) released a Report ***“Market Study on E-commerce in India: Key Findings and Observations” for E - commerce ecosystem in India***
- 5) **Ministry of Railways and NITI Aayog** released ***Draft Documents for discussion on Private Participation in Passenger Trains*** to seek stakeholder comments on them
- 6) **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** has prepared a "Draft Scheme for Supply of Round-The-Clock (RTC) Power from Renewable Energy (RE) based (solar, wind or small hydro) Power Projects, complemented with Power from Thermal (coal) Power Projects."
- 7) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved a Capital Grant as the ***Viability Gap Funding to Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd., for setting up the North East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid***.
- 8) **RBI** is ranked ***sixth in the world among other central banks in buying Gold from other countries***

## SPORTS

- 1) **AUSTRALIAN OPEN TENNIS: 2020 [20<sup>th</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> February], Melbourne, Victoria, Australia**

<b>Men's Singles</b>	<b><i>Novak Djokovic Serbia (won)</i></b> Vs. Dominic Thiem (Austria)
<b>Women's Singles</b>	<b><i>Sofia Kenin (USA) (won)</i></b> Vs. Garbiñe Muguruza (Spain)
<b>Men's Doubles</b>	Rajeev Ram (USA) & Joe Salisbury (Britain)
<b>Women's Doubles</b>	Timea Babos (Hungary) & Kristina Mladenovic (France)



## SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

SUMMITS / CONFERENCES	PURPOSE / THEME / OUTCOME	PLACE / By
<b>National Children's Science Congress</b>	<b>THEME:</b> "Science, Technology and Innovation for a Clean, Green and Healthy Nation"	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
<b>80<sup>th</sup> Indian History Congress (IHC)</b>	To pursue the constitutional duty of promoting composite culture, which is vital to promoting the territorial unity of India	Kannur, Kerala
<b>Global Potato Conclave 2020</b>	To create a wide network from farm to food processing and distribution	Gujarat
<b>Bharat Parv 2020</b>	The objective of Bharat Parv is to encourage Indians to travel to various tourist places in India and to communicate the spirit of 'Dekho Apna Desh'.  <b>THEME: "One India-Best India" and "150 years of Mahatma Gandhi"</b>	
<b>107<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress</b>	<b>THEME: "Science and Technology: Rural Development"</b>	Bengaluru
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Drosophila Research Conference</b>	The event will witness the largest meeting of Drosophila researchers on a global level	Pune
<b>World Future Energy Summit</b>	<b>THEME: "Rethinking Global Consumption, Production and Investment"</b>	Abu Dhabi
<b>50<sup>th</sup> World Economic Forum (WEF)</b>	The US will join One Trillion Trees initiative, launched at the World Economic Forum	Switzerland





## SCHEMES / YOJANAS

SCHEMES / YOJANAS	PURPOSE / Why in News?	MINISTRY / CABINET / STATE
<b>Shiv Bhojan Scheme</b>	The government will provide complete meat at the cost of Rs. 10 to the poor and underprivileged people. All the districts will be covered under the scheme.	Maharashtra
<b>Yashaswini Scheme</b>	Women entrepreneurship will provide women Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Goa with interest-free loans up to Rs 5 lakh for a tenure of 5 years.	Goa

## INDICES

INDEX	PURPOSE / RELEASED BY	INDIA's / Tamil Nadu's RANKING	TOP RANKING
<b>Sustainable Development Goal Index</b>	NITI Aayog	2 <sup>nd</sup> = Himachal Pradesh 3 <sup>rd</sup> = Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana	Kerala
<b>Corruption Perception Index 2019</b>	Transparency International	80	New Zealand & Denmark
<b>Henley Passport Index</b>		84	Japan
<b>Democracy Index</b>		51	Norway
<b>Social Mobility Index 2020</b>	World Economic Forum	76	Denmark



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## FESTIVALS

S.No.	FESTIVAL	STATE
1.	Lai Haraoba festival	Tripura

## INDIAN HARVEST FESTIVALS

S.No.	HARVEST FESTIVAL	STATE
1.	Pongal	Tamil Nadu
2.	Makar Sankranti	Karnataka
3.	Magha Bihu	Assam
4.	Uttarayan	Gujarat
5.	Saaji	Himachal Pradesh
6.	Maghi	Punjab
7.	Kicheri	Uttar Pradesh

## DEFENCE & SPACE

DEFENCE & SPACE	PURPOSE	COUNTRY / STATE / ORGANIZATION
<b>GSAT – 30 Satellite</b>	<b>Launch vehicle:</b> Ariane – 5 <b>Launch date:</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 The GSAT-30 is a communication satellite, which seeks to replace INSAT-4A <i>India's first satellite launch of this year</i>	ISRO

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SPECIES / NEW DISCOVERIES	TYPE / PURPOSE	PLACE / BY
<b>CORONAVIRUS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Coronavirus was declared global health emergency by WHO</li> <li>✓ World Health Organization (WHO) declared <b>COVID-19 an official name for coronavirus disease.</b></li> <li>✓ It is a <b>“PANDEMIC DISEASE”</b></li> <li>✓ First reported from Wuhan, China, on <b>31<sup>st</sup> December 2019</b></li> <li>✓ <b>The first case of a coronavirus in India</b> was identified from <b>Thrissur, Kerala</b>, on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020</li> <li>✓ On <b>30<sup>th</sup> January 30 2020</b>, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization <b>declared the outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC)”</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Transmission:</b></p> <p><b>Human coronaviruses most commonly spread from an infected person to others through:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The air by coughing and sneezing.</li> <li>✓ Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands.</li> <li>✓ Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands.</li> <li>✓ Rarely, fecal contamination.</li> </ul>	Wuhan, China,
<b>Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) web Portal</b>	To facilitate blocking and tracing of stolen/lost mobile phones	New Delhi
<b>MANI App</b>	To assist visually impaired persons in identifying the denomination of currency notes	Reserve Bank of India

<b>Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities map (I STEM) Portal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ “One Nation One Research Web Portal”</li> <li>✓ Provide a gateway for researchers to identify the “right fit” for their R&amp;D work in India.</li> </ul>	Prime Minister Narendra Modi
<b>Santusht Portal</b>	For the speedy redressal of employees and employers’ grievances	The Ministry of Labour
<b>Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System (PPRTMS)</b>	A new online tracking system for the registration of political parties	Election Commission of India
<b>Cyber AASHVAST</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ India’s 1<sup>st</sup> Cyber Crime Prevention Unit</li> <li>✓ Prevention of cyber crimes with the help of VISWAS and NETRANG</li> </ul>	Union Home Minister, Amit Shah
<b>Shopper Malware</b>	Smart phone users have been infected with a new Trojan called “Shopper malware”	Created by “Trojan – Dropper”

## AWARDS

AWARDS / PRIZES	PERSON / ORGANIZATION
<b>Pavan Sukhdev</b>	Tyler Prize 2020
<b>M S Swaminathan</b>	Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National award for Excellence
<b>Deepa Venkat</b>	Champion of Change Award
<b>Kumar Munnann Singh</b>	Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar

### Padma Awardees 2020:

AWARDS	PERSON	DOMAIN
	George Fernandes	Public Affairs - Posthumous
	Arun Jaitley	Public Affairs - Posthumous



<b>Padma Vibhushan</b>	Sushma Swaraj	Public Affairs - Posthumous
	Sir Anerood Jugnauth GCSK – Former President & Prime Minister of Mauritius	Public Affairs
	M C Mary Kom	Sports
	Chhannulal Mishra	Art
	Sri Vishveshateertha Swamiji Sri Pejavara Adhokhaja Matha Udupi - Karnataka	Others
<b>Padma Bhushan</b>	Manohar Gopalkrishna Prabhu Parrikar – Former CM of Goa	Public Affairs - Posthumous
	P V Sindhu	Sports
<b>Padma Shri</b>	Kangana Ranaut	Art

### Padma Awardees 2020 from Tamil Nadu:

AWARDS	PERSON	DOMAIN
<b>Padma Bhushan</b>	Krishnammal Jagannathan	Social Work
	Venu Srinivasan	Trade and Industry
<b>Padma Shri</b>	Lalitha & Saroja Chidambaram	Art
	Manohar Devadoss	Art
	S Ramakrishnan	Social Work
	Kalee Shabi Mahaboob & Sheik Mahaboob Subani	Art
	Pradeep Thalappil	Science & Technology





## **APPOINTMENTS & PERSONS IN NEWS**

PERSONS	POSITION / DESIGNATION
<b>Bipin Rawat</b>	Country's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)
<b>S K Saini</b>	New Army vice - chief
<b>B Anand</b>	Secretary of National Commission for Minorities
<b>Suresh Chandra Sharma</b>	Chairman of the National Medical Commission
<b>Haitham bin Tariq al - Said</b>	New Sultan of Oman
<b>Michael Debabrata Patra</b>	New Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India

## **WOMEN IN NEWS**

<b>Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force</b>	A P Maheshwari
<b>Crystal Award 2020</b>	Deepika Padukone
<b>Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres</b>	Sanjana Kapoor
<b>World Games Athlete of the Year award</b>	Rani Rampal

## **BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

BOOKS	AUTHORS
<b>Politics of Opportunism</b>	Authored by: R P N Singh Released by: S Gurumurthy
<b>Diamond In My Palm</b>	Sanjay Dharwadker
<b>The Winning Sixer</b>	WV Raman



### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

<b>DAYS</b>	<b>EVENTS</b>	<b>THEMES/ SIGNIFICANCE</b>
<b>January 4</b>	World Braille Day	To honor the birth anniversary of the inventor of Braille, Louis Braille
<b>January 9</b>	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas	To recognize the overseas Indians who have contributed to the development of India. This day was first celebrated in 2003.
<b>January 12</b>	National Youth Day	<b>THEME:</b> "Fit Youth Fit India"
<b>January 24</b>	International day of education	<b>THEME:</b> "Learning for people, planet, prosperity, and peace"
	National Girl Child Day	To provide support and opportunities to the girls of India
<b>January 25</b>	National Voters Day	<b>THEME:</b> "Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy"
<b>January 26</b>	International Customs Day	<b>THEME:</b> "Customs fostering Sustainability for People, Prosperity and the Planet"
<b>January 27</b>	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust	<b>THEME:</b> "75 years after Auschwitz - Holocaust Education and Remembrance for Global Justice"

✓ **National Girl Child Week 2020** – 24<sup>th</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> January

