

# CURIOS TIMES 2019 ROUND UP!

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## 10 notable developments in space science in 2019

Date : Dec 26 , 2019 | Image Credit : wikimedia commons



We have been reading about different top 10 news of the year. Today, lets read about the top 10 notable events/developments in space science in 2019.

- **Image of brightest-ever explosion of a neutron star** – NASA's Neutron Star Interior Composition Explorer (NICER) telescope on the International Space Station (ISS) captured the brightest-ever explosion of a neutron star named J1808, in the Sagittarius constellation.
- **First-ever all-female spacewalk** – NASA astronauts Christina Koch and Jessica Meir, became part of the first all-female team to do a spacewalk (in a half-century of spacewalking).
- **Project NETRA** – The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) initiated a project named Project NETRA or Network for Space Object Tracking and Analysis. NETRA is an early warning system in space to detect debris\* and other hazards to Indian satellites.
- **First-ever student-built rocket**– On 22 May 2019, a group of undergraduate students from the University of Southern California (USC) launched Traveler IV, the first-ever rocket designed and built by students.
- **Nepal and Sri Lanka launch their first satellites** -Both Nepal and Sri Lanka, launched their first-ever satellites from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in the US.
- **Annular Solar Eclipse** – India is able to view the Annular Solar Eclipse on 26 December 2019.
- **Chandrayaan 2**– India launched its second mission to the Moon.
- **First-ever image of a black-hole** – It was photographed by a network of eight telescopes set up by the Event Horizon Telescope team across the world. This image shows the black hole in a galaxy called Messier 87 (M87) which is 55 million light-years away.
- **50th flight of PSLV** – The historic 50th PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) flight was launched, carrying Radar Imaging Satellite RISAT-2BR1 in November.
- **Voyager 2 entry into interstellar space** – NASA's Voyager 2 has finally crossed the Sun's boundary (more than 11 billion miles from the Sun) and entered into the interstellar space, 42 years after it was launched.

## Top 10 buzzwords of 2019

Date : Dec 27 , 2019 | Image Credit : postcardsrus.com



Here are the top 10 buzzwords of the year 2019 – the words which were widely used by people on various occasions or events across the globe.

- **They** – The word 'They' was chosen as the Word of the Year for 2019 by Merriam-Webster dictionary. Lookups for 'they' increased by 313% in 2019 over the previous year. This curiosity is remarkable for a pronoun. Its a consequence of shifts in the way they is used.
- **People** – In the light of people's movement and protests happened/ happening across the world 'People' is one of the most echoed words of 2019.
- **Opioid** – Synthetic molecules that copy the effects of natural opiates (drugs) are called opioids. Opiates are chemicals derived from the
- **Woke** – Woke means "well-informed" or "alert to racial or social discrimination and injustice".
- **Nano influencers** – Individuals, who may have around a thousand followers on social media and try to influence the followers though posting their personal life moments and commercial products are called nano influencers.
- **Crisis** – From the environmental and climate crisis to the political and economic crisis, 2019 was defined by a worsening of conditions to the extent of the emergency.
- **Clemency** – It means both willingness or ability to moderate (lessen) the severity of punishment. Clemency's power of the Indian President during the Nirbhaya Case was widely discussed.
- **Exculpate** – It is defined as "to clear from alleged fault or guilt."
- **Sadfishing** – When someone uses their emotional problems to hook an audience on the internet, they are said to be sadfishing.
- **Impeach** – With the impeachment of American President Donald Trump, impeach became a buzzword of 2019. It means "to charge with a crime or misdemeanour" and "to cast doubt on."

## New Year Wishes

I hope you have as much fun reading the articles as we have had writing them. I look forward to learning many more new things with all our Curious readers in 2020

Atu, Content Manager



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## 10 youth icons who made a difference in 2019

Date : Dec 31 , 2019 | Image Credit : Facebook



The year 2019 has been full of creativity, wonders and showcasing of talent by young people.

Many youth have emerged as activists, Nobel prize winners, inventors, scientists and much more.

Here is a list of top 10 youth who have made a major difference through their work.

- **Greta Thunberg** – is a Swedish environmental activist on climate change.
  - She gained international recognition at the UN Climate Action summit 2019.
  - She was named as the Person of the Year for 2019 by TIME magazine.
  - She also won the alternate Nobel Prize and Amnesty International highest award.
- **R. Praggnanandhaa** – is an Indian chess player who won London Chess Classic 2019 and gold in the U-18 category in World Youth Chess Championship.
- **Young Canadian Students** – sued their government for supporting fossil fuels that are responsible for climate change.
- **Payal Jangid** – is a teenage Indian girl who received the Changemaker award from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- **Saurabh Chaudhary** – is an Indian sport shooter, who won a gold medal in men's 10m Air Pistol event at the ongoing ISSF (The International Shooting Sport Federation) World Record in 2019.
- **Nitesh Kumar Jangir** – an Indian engineer who won the 2019 Commonwealth Secretary-General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Award in London for creating breathing device for newborns.
- **Bandana Nepal** – is an 18-year-old girl from Nepal who danced for 126 Hours. With this, she has set a new Guinness World Record for "Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual."
- **Shafali Verma** – has become the youngest Indian cricketer to score 50 runs in an international match.
- **Caroline Crouchley** – is a 13-year old scientist from New York who has designed a travel solution, which is could be better than renowned company Hyperloop.
- **Sejal Gulia** – is a teenager from Bengaluru, Karnataka, who won gold at the Thailand Open worldwide fencing meet held in Bangkok. She has won two golds at the 4th Youngsters Cup and 10th Mini Nationwide Fencing Championship in ladies Epee (U-12) class.

## Top 10 biggest sports news of 2019

Date : Dec 27 , 2019 | Image Credit : Pixabay



2019 has been an exciting year in sports and many records were broken and new records have been made. Here are the top 10 sports news of the year.

- The **United States** won the FIFA Women's World Cup for the record 4th time.
- **England** won the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019, in the most interesting final, which was decided after a Tie-breaker.
- Kenya's **Brigid Kosgei** broke the women's marathon world record while **Eliud Kipchoge** also became the first in the world to run a marathon in under 2 hours. Jamaica's **Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce** also broke the record for the fastest 100-metre sprint by a woman.
- In November, **South Africa** won the 2019 Rugby World Cup. Japan also became the first-ever Asian country to host the Rugby World Cup.
- **Mithali Raj** became the first female cricketer to complete 20 years in ODI. India's **Shafali Verma** also became the youngest Indian to score an international half-century in cricket.
- **P.V. Sindhu** became the first Indian to win gold at Badminton World Championships, while, **Aishwarya Pissay** becomes first Indian to win a world title in motorsports.
- American **Simone Biles** broke the World Gymnastics Championships medals record in October, surpassing Vitaly Scherbo's record of 23 medals.
- **Lewis Hamilton** won the F1 British Grand Prix for the record sixth time.
- **Fallon Sherrock** became the first woman to win a match against a male opponent at the Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) world darts championship.
- **Rafael Nadal** won the Men's Singles title at the 2019 French Open for a record 12th time.

## New Year Wishes

Explore, Discover, Share and Stay Curious. Wishing you an adventurous year ahead.

Anupama Pradeepan, News Content Writer



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## Top 10 positive news of 2019

Date : Dec 31 , 2019 | Image Credit : Freepik

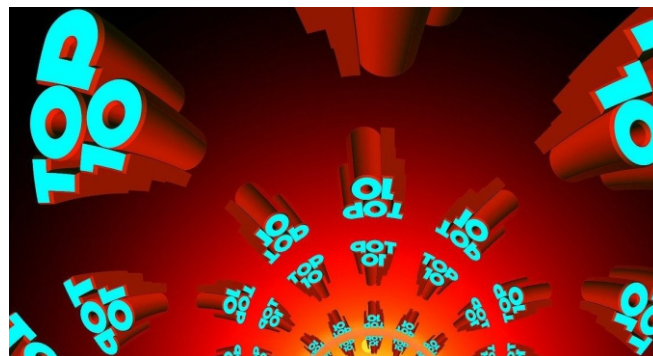


As the year is ending today, let us end on a happy note. Here's our roundup of the 10 top stories of progress from 2019:

- **The world has a sleep out in support of homelessness** – Around 60,000 people camped out overnight in support of homelessness. The campaign aims to resolve the global issue of homelessness that so many people face, including refugees and also raise US\$50 million for the cause.
- **World's first fully-electric commercial aircraft completes flight** – A fully-electric powered seaplane took its first test flight in Vancouver, Canada.
- **Kochi Kids League: a football league exclusively for children** – Organisers in Kochi and Bengaluru are setting up a football league especially for children.
- **ISRO launches historic 50th PSLV flight carrying Radar Imaging Satellite.**
- **Startup creates edible wheat bowls to cut down on plastic pollution** – A South African startup (company) has come up with a 'tasty' solution to combat plastic pollution – an edible bowl made of wheat!
- **India wins 3 gold medals at International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup Finals.**
- **Leaping Rabbits** wins the top prize at Nature Photographer of the Year 2019
- **Nine-year-old to become worlds youngest university graduate** – Laurent Simons from Belgium will be the youngest person to graduate in the world.
- **Pranjal Patil** is India's first visually challenged woman IAS officer. Her inspirational story gives hope to millions more in India that hard work can pay off.
- **India to build the worlds largest facial recognition system** – The new facial recognition platform can play an important role in identifying criminals, missing persons and bodies. It will also help police forces 'detect crime patterns' and crime prevention.
- **8-year-old Indian girl, Licypriya Kangujam**, spoke out courageously on climate change at COP25 in Madrid, Spain in December 2019.

## Most impactful Indians in 2019

Date : Dec 24 , 2019 | Image Credit : Pixabay



Its that time of the year again, when we look back at the year that has been. And its the people that make the news go round.

From a long list of people who've made an impact on society through their work, we bring to you 10 most impactful Indians of this year.

- **Business: Mukesh Ambani** – The world's 13th richest man increased his wealth this year by 25% in just 1 year!
- **Politics: Narendra Modi** – India's prime minister who's shaken up the country's politics from its ennui.
- **Cricket: Virat Kohli** – The first player to win the ICC's top three awards – ODI Cricketer of the Year, ICC Test Cricketer of the Year and ICC Cricketer of the Year – in the same year. Virat currently endorses 24 brands.
- **Bollywood: Amitabh Bachhan** – The Bollywood legend who's still going strong at 77 years of age, endorsing 22 brands and hosting yet another season of Kaun Banega Crorepati.
- **Billionaire: Azim Premji** – The large-hearted billionaire who recently donated \$21 billion ( 1.4 lakh crore) to the charitable Azim Premji Foundation. His Premji Invest has invested in several start-ups.
- **Actor: Deepika Padukone** – The first woman to be ranked in the top five of the Forbes India Celebrity 100 list.
- **Athletics: Hima Das** – The 19-year-old 'Dhing Express' who won 5 golds in 19 days in the international arena
- **Entertainment: Akshay Kumar** – The actor featured in Forbes' World's Highest-Paid Entertainers 2019, with earnings of \$65 million ( 448 crore). Akshay has been the spokesperson for the government's social cause programmes such as Bharat Ke Veer and #SadakSurakshaJeevanRaksha.
- **Yoga guru: Baba Ramdev** – He staged the 'biggest annual yoga show in the universe' on 21 June – the International Yoga Day.

## New Year Wishes

"Prosperous and Thoughtful 2020 for all my dear readers. Hope the new year be filled with lots of love, fun, Compassion

Arpitha, News Content Writer





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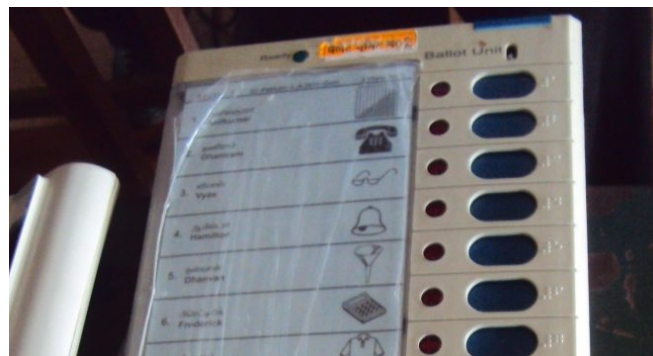
## Top 10 impactful Bollywood movies of 2019

Date : Dec 31 , 2019 | Image Credit : [Twitter@cinema](#)

2019 has been such an entertaining year in the Indian movie industry. Although it is difficult to pick the top 10 movies from a huge list, we have tried to pick 10 most interesting movies of 2019 below:

- **Uri: The Surgical Strike** – This action film featuring Vicky Kaushal in the lead role was released in January. The story is based on an Indian army operation which was led by Major Vihaan Singh Shergill.
- **The Accidental Prime Minister** – This film tells the story of Dr Manmohan Singh when he became Prime Minister. Anupam Kher played the role of Dr Singh.
- **Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi** – This movie is based on the life history of Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi and her struggles during the freedom fight in 1857. Kangana Ranaut has played the role of Lakshmi Bai.
- **Chhichhore** – This movie revolves around two stories simultaneously – one, a college story and another one with the social message against stress management in teens. Sushant Singh Rajput and Shraddha Kapoor were in the lead roles.
- **Super 30** – This students-related movie was based on the true story of Anand Kumar from Patna, Bihar who helped poor and needy students pass the IIT entrance exam. Hrithik Roshan played the role of Anand.
- **Article 15** – The film deals with Article 15 of the Constitution of India, which tells us to not discriminate based on caste, sex, race etc. Ayushmann Khurrana played the lead role of the police officer in this movie.
- **Mission Mangal** – The women-empowered movie shows the struggle of a group of scientists at ISRO in their successful launch of the satellite Mars Orbiter Mission (MoM). Akshay Kumar and Vidya Balan acted in the film.
- **The Sky Is Pink** – This movie is based on the life of motivational speaker Aisha Chaudhary who died when she was 18. The movie revolves around the emotional and physical difficulties Aisha's parents went through after she was diagnosed with a rare disease. Priyanka Chopra and Farhan Akhtar played lead roles.
- **Saad Ki Aankh** – This real story-based movie shows us how two women, 60-year-old Chandro Tomar and Prakash Tomar, inspire other women in their village by their achievement in winning sharpshooting competitions. Taapsee Pannu and Bhumi Pednekar played the roles of those women.
- **Panipat** – The film is based on the 3rd battle of Panipat which took place on the 14 January 1761 between the Marathas and the King of Afghanistan, Ahmad Shah Abdali. Arjun Kapoor played the lead roles here.

## Top 10 elections in 2019, India and globally

Date : Dec 26 , 2019 | Image Credit : [Wikimedia Commons](#)

This year saw many important elections in India and globally. Here are ten of the most important ones held.

- **Lok Sabha elections 2019** – The Lok Sabha elections were held over six phases from 11 April to 19 May. Results were declared in 24 May. The BJP came back to power with a resounding majority.
- Legislative assembly elections were also held for **Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha** in May, at the same time as the Lok Sabha elections.
- Legislative assembly elections were held and results declared for **Maharashtra and Haryana** in October and **Jharkhand**, in December.
- Jammu & Kashmir held its first-ever **Block Development Council** elections in October.
- **Parliamentary elections were held in the United Kingdom** which saw Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party win by a decisive majority.
- In November, Sri Lanka elected a new president – **Gotabaya Rajapaksa**.
- Hong Kong saw an **important election for the district councils** in November that indicated people's support for the pro-democracy protestors.
- Elections were also held for the **European Parliament in May**.
- **Zuzana Caputova** became the first female President of Slovakia in June while **Volodymyr Zelensky** won Ukraine's Presidential election.
- In April, the world's **biggest single-day election was held in Indonesia**.

As we can see, it has been a very busy and important year in terms of elections and the results from them will decide many important issues (in both India and the world) moving forward.

## New Year Wishes

May this year bring new happiness, new goals, new achievements and a lot of new inspirations on your life. Wishing you a year fully loaded with happiness.

Piyush Verma, Design and Development Lead



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## Top 10 inspirational Indian women of 2019

Date : Dec 31 , 2019 | Image Credit : Pixabay



Women empowerment has become one of the biggest movements in India.

Let's have a look at 10 inspiring women who have proven to be the role-models to others in 2019.

- **Politician** – Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is ranked at 34th place on Forbes' World's 100 Most Powerful Women list for 2019. She is India's first full-time female Union Finance Minister and previously held the post of Union Defence Minister.
- **Actress** – Deepika Padukone – The first woman to be ranked in the top five of the Forbes India Celebrity 100 list.
- **Entrepreneur** – Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, ranked 65 on the Forbes list, is India's richest self-made woman. She is the chairperson and managing director of Biocon Limited, a biotechnology company based in Bangalore, India
- **Athlete** – Dutee Chand is an Indian professional sprinter and current national champion in the women's 100 metres event.
- **Badminton Player** – PV Sindhu became the first Indian to win gold in BWF World Badminton Championships.
- **Pilot** – Sub-lieutenant Shivangi was appointed as the first-ever woman pilot for the Indian Navy.
- **Economist** – Gita Gopinath is the first female Chief Economist of International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- **Financier** – Anshula Kant is the chief financial officer and managing director of the World Bank Group.
- **Pilot** – Anupriya Lakra, a 27-year-old tribal woman has become the first female commercial pilot from Malkangiri district in Odisha.
- **Athlete** – Hima Das, an Indian Sprinter won five successive gold medals in different meets across Poland and the Czech Republic within 20 days in 2019. She is the second-fastest Asian, featuring in the top-10 under-20 runners in the world in 2019.

## 10 biggest news on climate change in 2019

Date : Dec 24 , 2019 | Image Credit : Youtube



2019 saw **climate change** as the greatest threat to the Earth's Ecosystem.

Curious Times has covered a lot on climate change, its analysis, effects, causes videos and photos, the entire year.

Here, we present the top 10 biggest news on climate change in 2019.

- **Nobel Prize Winners** Didier Queloz, M Stanley Whittingham and Esther Duflo spoke out about the urgent need to address climate change.
- A group of **15 young Canadians** sued their government for supporting fossil fuels that are responsible for climate change.
- **Global climate** is the average climate seen over the entire planet. The **Earth has become warmer** and the **climate has changed across countries**.
- **Indian Institute of Technology – Madras** launched a '**DST Centre of Excellence (CoE)** in Climate Change Impacts on Coastal Infrastructure and the Adaptation Strategies. The center is launched to formulate adaptation strategies (planning how to face various issues caused by climate change) against the impacts of climate change.
- During all these **climate protests**, the most commonly used word, '**climate strike**', was named **Collins Word of the Year 2019**. The word was used 100 times more often in 2019, than as compared to 2018.
- As part of the **second wave of global 'climate strikes'**, Greta Thunberg joined 500,000 people at climate demonstrations in **Montreal, Canada**.
- Swedish climate activist **Greta Thunberg** was one of the recipients of the **2019 Right Livelihood Award**. The prize is also known as Sweden's alternative Nobel Prize.
- Climate activist **Greta Thunberg** also delivered a **powerful and emotionally-charged speech** at the **UN Climate Action Summit**. Ms Thunberg told the participating member nations that the **future generation will never forgive them if they fail to act on climate change effectively now**.
- **Climate crisis: UN Climate Action Summit 2019** – **60 heads of states** participated in the **UN Climate Action Summit 2019**, in New York, US. The aim of the summit was to **urge governments to come with concrete and meaningful plans for action**. Each leader presented their ideas and plans to fight strongly against the climate crisis.
- **The United Kingdom** became the first country in the world to pass a **national emergency on climate change**.

## New Year Wishes

Thank you, dear readers, for making Curious Times a success. Stay informed, stay curious with us in 2020

Shefali Ahuja-Gupta, Child Development and Learning Specialist



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## Top 10 record smashing movies of 2019

Date: Dec 31, 2019 | Image Credit: Piqsels



Movies are fun to watch all through the year. But do you want to know the movies that broke records in 2019?

Well, here is a list of the 10 movies that were big box-office hits. Check out if the ones you watched make it to the list!

- **Avengers: Endgame** – The highest-grossing film ever, Avengers: Endgame brought all our superheroes together on screen. And with all of them defeating Thanos, the movie was a delight to watch. The movie sold a total of 94,223,161 tickets!
- **Lion King** – The story of Simba touched us. Lion King was the second highest-grossing film of this year. It broke many records at the box-office, including having one of the highest opening weekends.
- **Spiderman: Far From Home** – Our friendly neighbourhood Spiderman smashed records along with catching the bad guys. The movie earned \$65.5 million in the first two days after release in North America.
- **Captain Marvel** – Captain Marvel became the fourth most profitable film of the year. It became the highest-grossing film with a female superhero lead. Captain Marvel did indeed go 'Higher, further, faster'.
- **Frozen 2** – Elsa and Anna sang to our joy and mended the past. Frozen 2 made a record of the biggest opening for an animated film ever.
- **Toy Story** – But Toy Story held the record for biggest animated film opening, till Frozen 2 overtook. The story of Woody, Buzz and the toy gang also received good reviews.
- **Joker** – Now let's get a little serious. Joker became the highest-grossing R-rated film ever. Based on the life of the villain in the Batman series, Joker is not for children to watch.
- **Aladdin** – But you could, of course, watch the antics of Gene in Aladdin. Aladdin was the longest-running film in theatres in 2019. In fact, it crossed Avengers: Endgame to run in theatres for more than 150 days.
- **Hobbs & Shaw** – The Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw was an action-packed movie. It held the record of the No.1 position at the box-office for four weeks.
- **War – Bollywood movie**, War, saw two talented stars Hrithik Roshan and Tiger Shroff come together for the first time. It broke many records and became the movie with the biggest opening in the history in the Hindi cinema.

## The world has a sleep out in support of homelessness

Date: Dec 17, 2019 | Image Credit: Twitter, @wlm\_uk



Earlier in the month of December, around 60,000 people camped out overnight in support of homelessness.

- The 'World's Big Sleep Out' took place in around 50 cities around the world like London, Edinburgh, New York, Los Angeles and Cardiff.
- In London, people camped out in Trafalgar Square and had to face heavy rain and low temperatures.
- Many homeless people are forced to deal with bad weather conditions on a daily basis. Most of them probably go hungry as well.
- A number of celebrities also showed their support for the campaign.
- Actress Dame Helen Mirren read bedtime stories to those sleeping out in Trafalgar Square.
- In New York, actor Will Smith gave a speech to hundreds of people in Times Square.

### Who are the homeless people?

- People who can't afford housing, are unemployed and poor end up living on the streets.
- Also those who suffer from mental illness and lack the services needed for treatment.
- People who are into substance abuse (drug addicts) and lack the support they need to kick the habit.

The Sleep Out campaign is meant to shine a spotlight on the global issue of homelessness that so many people face, including refugees. It aims to raise \$50 million for the cause.

## Do you Know



The Christmas Tree set up at Trafalgar Square each year is a gift from the Norwegian government. This tradition is in honour of Britain's involvement in assisting Norway during the Second World War.

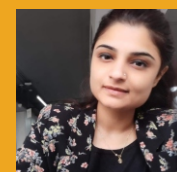


## New Year Wishes

Thank you, to all our Curious Times readers. Your support and appreciation help us to make a series of stories possible and your feedback gives us the motivation. It's wonderful to have you as a part of Curious times.

We promise to bring you the most amazing and informative stories in the year 2020. Happy 2020!"

Trushika Narang, News Content Writer





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## 10 biggest protests around the world in 2019

Date : Dec 23 , 2019 | Image Credit : [wikimedia commons](#)

2019 saw numerous outbreaks of protests across the globe.

Russia, Serbia, Ukraine and Albania, France, Bolivia, Lebanon, Chile, Spain, Iraq, Guinea, Hong Kong, the UK, Sudan, Ecuador, Cameroon, Egypt and currently India have all seen major demonstrations.

Here, we present the top 10 protests occurred across the world in 2019.

- **Hong Kong** – One of the biggest protests of 2019, opposing a proposed bill that would have allowed Hong Kong citizens to be extradited to mainland China. Approximately 2 million people participated in the protest.
- **Bolivia** – Bolivians in October protested claiming election fraud against President Evo Morales. At least 31 people have been killed during the protest.
- **Chile** – Chileans in Santiago, the capital of Chile, protested over proposed hikes in subway fares. Protests soon spread to other parts of the country demanding income equality, better health care and education.
- **Iran** – Protests broke out across Iran after the government announced a 50% increase in gasoline prices. More than 140 protesters died in 22 cities across the nation.
- **Iraq** – Anti-corruption protests across the country costing 350 lives.
- **Lebanon** – People protested against corruption and for a new government.
- **Russia** – Agitation against the government in which opposition candidates were barred for city council elections.
- **Spain** – Protest against long prison sentences for nine separatist leaders for holding an illegal referendum in 2017.
- **Sudan** - Protests against its former dictator Omar al-Bashir led to his overthrow and the formation of a new democratic government in Sudan.
- **India** – Against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which provides citizenship for non-Muslim illegal immigrants from 3 neighbouring countries who are subjected to religious persecution.

## 10 influential Indian personalities that we lost in 2019

Date : Dec 30 , 2019 | Image Credit : [tOrange.biz](#)

We lost many famous and beloved people this year. Today, let us remember some of the important and influential Indian personalities that passed away in 2019.

- **George Fernandes** – George Fernandes passed away in January 2019. He was a former Union and Defence minister. He held various portfolios or government responsibilities during his lifetime.
- **Manohar Parrikar** – Manohar Parrikar was the first IIT alumnus to become the Chief Minister of Goa in 2000. He was also the Defence Minister of India from 2014-2017. He passed away in March.
- **Sushma Swaraj** – Former External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj was a respected and experienced politician. Known as the People's Minister, Sushma Swaraj was a member of Parliament for seven times.
- **Arun Jaitley** – Arun Jaitley was India's former Finance and Defence Minister. He introduced the GST (Goods and service tax) when he was Finance Minister in 2017.
- **Ram Jethmalani** – A well-known lawyer, Ram Jethmalani passed away in September 2019. He also served as the Union law minister under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **T N Seshan** – T N Seshan was the former Chief Election Commissioner or CEC. He will be remembered for his excellent work to make elections free of corruption.
- **Sheila Dixit** – Sheila Dixit was the Chief Minister of Delhi for 15 years, from 1998-2013. She is the longest-serving female Chief Minister of any Indian state. She passed away in July 2019.
- **Justice Venkatchala** – Justice Venkatchala was a reputed former judge of the Supreme Court.
- **Girish Karnad** – A director, actor and play writer, Girish Karnad's plays have been translated and performed in English and many other regional languages. He was awarded the Padma Shri for his contribution in theatre and the Padma Bhushan for literature.
- **Ramakant Achrekar** – Achrekar Sir was Sachin Tendulkar's coach. He was also one of the most loved and respected cricket coaches of India. He was recognized for his contribution to the sport, with awards including the Dronacharya Award and the Padma Shri.

## New Year Wishes

"May you continue to read, explore and learn. Wishing you all a curious and happy new year!"

Tasneem Sariya, News and SEO Writer



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## Message from our founder



Warm hugs to our dear young ones, who are trying to stay cozy in the freezing winters of the North and enjoying the comfortable winters of the South.

On my visit to a school, which has adopted Curious Times in their daily curriculum, a student pointed out that they would like to read the story of Curious Times.

Here is our story about when we started the Curious Times journey almost a year back.

### Our story and our inspiration

The name 'Curious Times' came after a lot of deliberation. The fact is that **we are living in very interesting times. Our young audience is seeking answers to their curious questions at a time where almost everything changes every single day.** So, we started with a mission to bring the changes happening in this world, in no more than 10-15 minutes bytes daily.

The entire application including the logo has been designed by students like you, between the age of 7 to 18 years.

We understood from the students on what they wanted. So here we are, bringing just the most important [news and articles](#) and sometimes lesser-known facts every single day. The students at the schools we are affiliated with, also enjoy a monthly News Making activity.

We meet students regularly and they keep sharing their ideas on what they would want to have at Curious Times. Then we implement their ideas. **So, as you can see, you, our young readers, have inspired us and will continue to inspire us.**

### Our Team

It's not easy to be a writer on Curious Times. We are happy to say that we have some very empathetic, intelligent learners and curious people on our team. Some of them are researchers, teachers, parents; some are English literature specialists and some others are media professionals. Since our readers would also like vibrance and colours, we also have designers, who have a million colours in their palette!

**Most importantly, students, like all of you, have also been our news writers during their school breaks.**

### Our Curious and Creative Community

We are so happy to share that we have touched 30,000+ students, families and educators. The students' contributions have reached more than 10,000 users. We have users spread across 200+ cities in India and 20+ cities in the UAE, US, UK, Australia, France etc.

Our emphasis is on adding to our curricula with the [latest information](#) before it becomes history. Every piece of information on Curious Times can serve as an inspiration for your thoughts, innovation, creativity, careers and imbibe key 21st Century skills as you grow.

Students have also been participating on [ME - My Expressions](#), a creative, safe and trusted space for children. Additionally, our daily dose of [Funtastic](#), [weekly E-Newspaper](#) and [monthly Newsletter](#) have been big hits with our readers.

As the Year 2020 starts, I share my deep wishes for all of you,

"There is nothing more wonderful than receiving something new every day.

So, we wish you and your loved ones the best news, every day of the year 2020

Let's continue to have new ideas, learnings, inspirations, explorations and lots of curiosity!"

We are always keen to hear from you. Keep sending us your views and creative expressions on [hello@curious-times.in](mailto:hello@curious-times.in).

**Stay Curious and Have a great 2020!**



Deepti Beri, Founder