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**TNPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS JANUARY- 2019**  
**[ENGLISH MEDIUM]**



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# **Current Affairs For TNPSC Examinations**

## **JANUARY - 2019**

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**TAMILNADU****➤ Apollo Proton Cancer Centre**

- ❖ India has launched Apollo Proton Cancer Centre (APCC) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ With this launch, India has become the 16th country in the World to offer proton therapy for cancer.
- ❖ The Centre offers proton therapy with pencil-beam technology that provides a high degree of precision.
- ❖ Through proton beam therapy, which is a form of radiation, zero dose beyond the tumour is achievable.

**➤ Anna medal for gallantry**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM has presented the Anna Award for Gallantry to 3 meritorious persons during the Republic day celebrations held in Chennai. G Ranjithkumar (Bodinaikanur) – Rescued 8 trekkers trapped in the Kurangani forest fire in March 2018.
- o N Surya Kumar (Thirumanagalam, Chennai) - caught a robber
- o R Sridhar (Thanjavur) – Rescued 6 women and children from drowning in a lake
- ❖ The CM also gave a special award to farmer S Xavier (Pudukottai district) for getting the highest yield in paddy cultivation using the Rice intensification method.

**➤ Republic Day parade awards**

- ❖ Overall 15 state Government departments have projected their achievements through their parade vehicles at the Republic day event held at Chennai.
- ❖ Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has won the first prize in the Republic day parade held in Chennai.
- ❖ Agriculture and Horticulture Department secured the second prize while Health and Sanitation department secured the third prize.

**➤ Awards under Swasth Bharat Yatra**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has won the 'Best State – Overall' award under 'Swasth Bharat Yatra' (SBY) programme of the FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India).
- ❖ Madurai and Sivakasi have been adjudged the best cities in Tamil Nadu under the programme.
- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) had launched Swasth Bharat Yatra to amplify its Eat Right India initiative.
- ❖ Swasth Bharat Yatra was a 100-day consumer outreach programme.

**➤ Other awards**

- ❖ Best States with a population above 3 crore - Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh & Maharashtra.

- ❖ Best States having a population less than 3 crore - Punjab, Goa & Delhi.
- ❖ Special awards - Meghalaya, Jammu and Kashmir & Uttarakhand (participation despite their hilly & difficult terrain).

### ➤ **PM's TN Visit**

- ❖ The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Thoppur near Madurai, Tamil Nadu on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2019.
- ❖ It will be the first such facility in Tamilnadu.
- ❖ Besides this, the super speciality blocks of Madurai's Rajaji Medical College, Thanjavur Medical College and Tirunelveli Medical College was also inaugurated by the PM.

### ➤ **Thiruvalluvar Day Awards**

- ❖ A total of 9 Tamil scholars were felicitated by Tamil Nadu CM at the Thiruvalluvar Day celebrations held at Chennai.
- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu celebrates Thiruvalluvar Day (16 January) in the honour of the poet Thiruvalluvar, as part of the Pongal celebrations.

### ➤ **Recipients Awards**

- ❖ **Pazha Nedumaran** Kamarajar award
- ❖ **C Ponnaiyan** Periyar award
- ❖ **Soolur Kalaipithan** KAP Viswanatham award
- ❖ **Poet Thiyaroo** Bharathidasan award
- ❖ **Dr K Ganesan** Thiru.Vi.Ka award
- ❖ **M Bharathi Sugumaran** Bharathiyar award
- ❖ **M Aikkan** Perarignar Anna award
- ❖ **C Ramaguru** Ambedkar award
- ❖ **MG Anwar Batcha** Thiruvalluvar award
- ❖ These Tamil scholars were awarded for their service to the language.

### ➤ **Ban on single-use plastic**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government's order banning Manufacturing, trade and use of 14 kinds of plastic products – kicks off on 2019 January 1 in the state.
- ❖ The state will decide on the penalty for the users who violate the ban after studying the models of other states, including Karnataka.
- ❖ 14 banned items only constitute five per cent of the total plastic manufactured in the state.
- ❖ The Union Environment Ministry has already notified the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2018, which mandates phasing out of manufacture and use of non-recyclable multi-layered plastic in two years.

### ➤ **Tamilnadu Assembly session**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly session commenced on 2nd January 2019 with the customary New Year address by the Governor.
- ❖ The Assembly session would continue till January 8.
- ❖ A decision to this effect was taken at the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting chaired by Speaker P Dhanapal.

### ➤ **Top 10 Districts of India**

- ❖ The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation had organised a 10 day long (November 9 – November 19) contest to mark World Toilet Day.
- ❖ The ministry released the list of top 10 placeholders that is the top 12 district (including joint winners).
- ❖ Salem district of Tamil Nadu has been placed among top 12 districts in World Toilet Day contest.

### ➤ **Minister P Balakrishna Reddy Convicted**

- ❖ A special court sentenced P Balakrishna Reddy to 3 years' imprisonment & and imposed a fine of Rs 10000 for damaging buses with stones in 1998.
- ❖ Following the conviction, Reddy, the Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, submitted his resignation from the ministry and it was accepted..
- ❖ Reddy, who represents Hosur constituency in the state assembly, is the first minister to have been convicted by the special court.
- ❖ The portfolio held by him has been allocated to School education minister Thiru KA Sengottaiyan.

### ➤ **Tamilnadu's 33rd district**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM announced the formation of a new district Kallakurichi by bifurcating Villupuram district on 08th January.
- ❖ It is one of the large districts in the State.
- ❖ Kallakurichi will be the headquarters of the new district and its creation has increased the number of districts in Tamil Nadu to 33.
- ❖ The district will have four Assembly constituencies and one parliamentary constituency.
- ❖ Tiruppur was the last district to be formed in Tamil Nadu before this announcement in 2009.

### ➤ **'Police-E-Eye' app**

- ❖ The Coimbatore city traffic police has launched a mobile application 'Police-E-Eye' for the public to report on traffic violations to police and to keep a check on the same.
- ❖ The app was developed by Aveon Infotech Pvt. Ltd under its Corporate Social Responsibility.
- ❖ The violations so filed can be photographed which will be sent to the police along with the location, time and date with the help of GPS.

### ➤ **Namma Chennai mobile app**

- ❖ The Greater Chennai Corporation has added additional services to the Namma Chennai mobile app for the use of the general public.
- ❖ Birth certificate, death certificate, property tax collection status and receipt download, professional tax collection status and receipt download, trade licence status and receipt download can all be done using the application now.

- ❖ Changes to birth and death certificates can be made online using the app.
- ❖ It also allows the submission of complaints.

### ➤ **Committee to weed out invasive alien species**

- ❖ The Madras High Court has set up an expert committee to find a solution to root out invasive species of plants from the Western Ghats.
- ❖ The invasive species are considered as the second major cause for biodiversity loss besides causing agriculture, forestry and aquatic ecosystem degradation.
- ❖ This committee shall be headed by Cherukuri Raghavendra Babu, Chairman, Expert Committee on Invasive Species, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai.

### ➤ **Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA)**

- ❖ The Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA) Act and its relevant rules were finally notified in the Gazette after Eight years it has received the Governor's assent (November 27, 2010).
- ❖ The Chief Urban Planner (Transport) of Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) will be the Chief Executive officer of CUMTA under whose control the authority will function.
- ❖ The Eminent person in traffic and transportation expert having knowledge of and experience in the field of transport planning, management, operations, engineering economics and disciplines related to urban transport will be nominated by government.

### ➤ **Robo cop 'Rodeo'**

- ❖ Rodeo, a Robo cop was inaugurated by the Chennai city police commissioner in the road safety gallery at the Chennai traffic police office at vepery.
- ❖ A team consisting of 23 kids from SP Robotic Works have designed the robot.
- ❖ It can do multiple tasks like rotating to face the visitors and deliver road safety related messages.

### ➤ **Tamil Nadu defence industrial corridor**

- ❖ The Union Government will launch a defence industrial corridor in Tamil Nadu on 20th January.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu industrial corridor will connect Chennai, Hosur, Coimbatore, Salem and Tiruchirappalli.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh corridor was launched at Aligarh in August 2018 and saw investment announcements to the tune of Rs 3,732 crore being made.

### ➤ **MGR birth anniversary Commemorative coins**

- ❖ Two commemorative coins in the denomination of Rs 100 and Rs 5 were released to mark the 102nd birth anniversary of late Tamil Nadu chief minister M G Ramachandran.
- ❖ As part of birth anniversary celebrations, 66 feet wide and 52 feet tall "Dr MGR Centenary Arch", constructed across the Kamarajar road, off the famous Marina beach, was also unveiled.

### ➤ **TN launches portal for pensioners**

- ❖ The Deputy CM of Tamil Nadu has recently launched a new portal for pensioners' - (<https://tnpensioner.tn.gov.in>).
- ❖ The portal was jointly developed by the Department of Treasuries and Accounts and National Informatics Centre.
- ❖ From the portal,
  - ❖ Details of monthly pension credited into the bank accounts,
  - ❖ Restoration of commuted value of pension,
  - ❖ Enhanced family pension, etc.,
  - ❖ can be accessed without approaching the Treasury/Pension Pay Office.

### ➤ **Golden jubilee of Tamil Nadu to be celebrated**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has announced that Golden jubilee of renaming the erstwhile state of Madras, as Tamil Nadu will be commemorated this year (2019).
- ❖ The Madras state was renamed as Tamil Nadu by the then DMK government led by C. N. Annadurai on January 14, 1969, on the occasion of Pongal.
- ❖ It was the Congressman Thyagi Sankaralinganar in July 27, 1956 who first struggled for the renaming of Madras State to "Thamizhagam".

### ➤ **Startup and Innovation policy of Tamil Nadu**

- ❖ The government of Tamil Nadu has released Start up and Innovation policy 2018-2023.
- ❖ Its mission is to provide an enabling and innovative ecosystem for start-ups registered in the State and to make Tamil Nadu a 'Global Innovation hub for start ups' by 2023.
- ❖ The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) will act as a nodal agency to promote and facilitate start-ups.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Startup and InnovaTION Mission (TANSIM) headed by a full-time officer will advocate and oversee policies and programmes for promoting startups.

### ➤ **World record in bull taming event**

- ❖ A grand "jallikattu" event held at Viralimalai, Pudukkottai on 20th January has entered the world record for the maximum number of bulls released into the sporting arena.
- ❖ A whopping 1,353 bulls and 700 tamers participated in the mega jallikattu event, which is almost double than the previous record.
- ❖ For the first time in the country, a temporary trauma care unit was established near the Jallikattu venue with all the facilities to perform surgeries.

### ➤ **New paddy variety**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute (TRRI), Aduthurai, has released a new short duration rice variety christened as ADT 53.
- ❖ This short-term variety has a maturity period of 105 to 110 days.
- ❖ The new ADT 53 variety is a boon to the farmers as it is superior to the ADT



43 variety in terms of yield and quality.

- ❖ The new variety will suit the requirements of farmers for
- ❖ Kuruvai or Kodai (summer) seasons in the delta districts and
- ❖ Sornavari or Navarai seasons in other districts.
- ❖ It has a milling capacity of 62% and full rice capacity of 65 %.
- ❖ It also has rich content of Zinc and Iron.
- ❖ ADT 53 variety is a cross derivative of ADT 43 / JGL 384.

### ➤ **Kindergarten in Government Schools**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu CM kicked off a pilot project on 21st January enabling children to attend kindergarten classes based on Montessori education in English medium at government middle schools with anganwadi centres in the State.
- ❖ In this regard kindergarten sections were inaugurated at the Presidency Girls Higher Secondary School in Egmore, Chennai.
- ❖ It is expected to benefit over 52,000 students in 2,381 anganwadis.
- ❖ The classes would be conducted jointly by the School Education Department and the Social Welfare Department in all 32 districts.
- ❖ The schools would be managed by headmasters of middle schools and would be under the administrative control of officials of the Integrated Child Development Scheme.
- ❖ The surplus secondary grade teachers will be utilised for the same.
- ❖ Teachers who are to teach the children would be trained under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan.
- ❖ Four set of school uniforms, one set of footwear, stationery and a course completion certificate would be provided by the State government.
- ❖ The scheme is aimed at improving students' learning skills, spoken and writing ability in English.
- ❖ The government is optimistic that it will encourage parents to opt for government schools.
- ❖ As much as 7 crores has been released towards this project.
- ❖ It is a pilot project for three years.

### ➤ **TN bagged awards for BBBP scheme**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State government bagged 2 awards for its performance pertaining to the Union government's Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme at the National Girl Child Day celebrations in New Delhi.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu was selected for its good performance on BBBP in the category "overall support, guidance, monitoring and achieving the targets of BBBP".
- ❖ The State won praise for bringing out a guide book on BBBP in Tamil.
- ❖ Tiruvannamalai district was selected for district-level BBBP award under the category of "Effective community management".

### ➤ **Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2019**

- ❖ The second edition of Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2019 was held (Jan 23,24) at Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The T.N. government signed 304 Memoranda of Understanding and



agreements entailing investments to the tune of over Rs.3,00,431 crore at GIM-2.

- ❖ MSME 's alone account for 11% of the total investments, a significant increase from 7% in the inaugural GIM.
- ❖ The first edition of the Global Investors Meet was held on 2015 at Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

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## NATIONAL

### ➤ Ujjwala Sanitary Napkin initiative in Bhubaneswar

- To provide access to hygiene products and employment to opportunities in every district of the state, Union Petroleum Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** launched the **Ujjwala Sanitary Napkin** initiative in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- The scheme is a central move to counter Odisha government's Khushi scheme that provides free of cost sanitary napkins to female students of government and government-aided schools in the state.

### ➤ Centers of Excellence at Deen Dayal Hastkala Sankul

- The **Deen Dayal Veterinary University** in Uttar Pradesh proposed to set up the **first goat fertility lab** in the state under **Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojna** at the cost of **Rs 22 crores**.
- Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojna or National Agriculture Development Programme is a State Plan Scheme of Additional Central Assistance launched in **August 2007** as a part of the **11th Five Year Plan** by the Government of India.

### ➤ Amendments in Rule-12 and Rule-17 of the Rajasthan Judicial Service Rules

- Rajasthan **Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot** approved the proposal for amendments in **Rule-12 and Rule-17 of the Rajasthan Judicial Service Rules, 2010** after State Cabinet's meeting held under the chairmanship of Ashok Gehlot.
- It has been decided to give **1 per cent reservation to the Backward Classes** in the Rajasthan Judicial Service.

### ➤ Where did the unique Chapparam (Chariot) festival was celebrated in Tamil Nadu?

- The unique **Chapparam (Chariot) festival** was celebrated with traditional rituals and festivities in the famous **Madurai Meenakshi temple, in Tamil Nadu**. The fest symbolizes the importance of preserving all kinds of food and fodder.

### ➤ Who laid the foundation stone for the 12th battalion headquarters at Hollongi, Itanagar?

- **Arunachal Pradesh** was given a permanent battalion of the **National Disaster Response Force** and Chief Minister **Pema Khandu** laid the foundation stone for the **12th battalion headquarters at Hollongi, Itanagar**.

### ➤ Where did the 'Indian Science Congress (ISC)-2019' held?

- World's largest science meet „**Indian Science Congress (ISC)-2019**“ is held on 3rd to 7th January 2019, in **Jalandhar, Punjab**.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 106th edition of ISC-2019, based on the theme „**Future India: Science and Technology**“
- **country's first vertical lift bridge connecting Arabian Sea to mainland India**
- **Railways will build the country's first vertical-lift bridge connecting Rameswaram in Arabian Sea to mainland India** that will allow ships and steamers to pass through without any hinderance, replacing the existing 104-year-old Pamban bridge.
- **Railway minister Piyush Goel announced HoneyBee Plan**
- Railway minister **Piyush Goel** announced that the **Honey Bee plan in Assam** that kept elephants away from the tracks will be expanded to other areas of the country. He said that the initiative was started on experiment basis last year.
- **AICTE panel**
- A government appointed panel headed by **IIT- Hyderabad chairman B V R Mohan Reddy** has suggested to the All India Council for Technical Education (**AICTE**) to stop setting up new engineering colleges from **2020** and review the creation of new capacity every two years after that.
- **Acting Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court**
- **Andhra Pradesh** got a separate high court which will temporarily function from the Chief Minister's camp office in **Amravati**, the new capital of the state till a permanent building for the High Court is being set up at the „**Justice City**“ in Amaravati.
- **Justice C Praveen Kumar**, the senior-most judge among the judges allotted to Andhra Pradesh, was appointed as acting Chief Justice of AP High Court, that will have 15 other judges with effect from January 1, 2019.
- **100 percent households have been electrified under Saubhagya Yojana?**
- India achieved electrification in **100% households in 25 states at the end of 2018**. Now, only about 10.48 lakh households are left to be electrified in 4 states – Assam, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, and Chhattisgarh.
- The **Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana** (Saubhagya) in September 2017 to achieve the goal of universal household electrification in the country by 31 March 2019.
- **Samwad with Students on New Year Day**
- As part of the enhanced outreach programme of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), a **new platform named Samwad with Students (SwS) was launched in Bengaluru** on January 1, 2019.
- The new conversation mission will inspire students cutting across schools and colleges.
- **Free LPG connections under PMUY**
- The government **on January 2, 2019 gave out the 6-croreth free cooking gas (LPG) connection** as the scheme to make available cleaner fuel in every household kitchens runs ahead of schedule.

- The target was later raised to 8 crore connections by 2021 and now envisages giving all households a connection.
- The PMUY was launched on 1 May 2016, with a target to give 5 crore connections by March 2019.
- **Ban on the purchase new vehicles and air conditioners (ACs)**
  - **Chief Minister** of the Congress led government of **Madhya Pradesh, Kamal Nath**, banned the purchase new vehicles and air conditioners (ACs) by the government departments due to huge debt of the state.
  - Although, hospitals, hostels, Anganwadis, shelter homes have been kept out of the purview of the limitations.
- **Krishi Krishak Bandhu' scheme**
  - The **Mamata Banerjee** led **West Bengal** government announced two welfare initiatives for farmers as a part of the „**Krishi Krishak Bandhu**“ scheme which will come into effect from New Year's Day **January 1, 2019**.
  - Under the first of the two schemes, If a farmer aged between **18 to 60 years** dies a natural or unnatural death, the state government will pay his family **Rs 2 lakh**.
- **Slogan – jai Jawan, Jai Kisan**
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi **added „Jai Anusandhan“ to the slogan „Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan“** given by the late Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, hailing the power of research to propel the nation into the top league.
  - The slogan „Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan“ was later prefixed with „Jai Vigyan“ by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **guest of honour in 27th edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF)**
  - The 27th edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF), which has the **UAE's third largest emirate Sharjah as its 2019 guest of honour**, is set to enthrall book lovers from January 5 to 13 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
  - Co-organised by the National Book Trust (NBT) and the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), the Book Fair's **theme is “Readers with special needs”**, especially children.
- **MoU between India and Morocco**
  - The Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** approved Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Morocco.
  - The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Morocco** on cooperation in the area of **Cyber Security**.

➤ **Pradhan Mantri -Jan Arogya Yojana**

- **The Cabinet has approves** Restructuring of National Health Agency as “**National Health Authority**” for better implementation of Pradhan Mantri – Jan Arogya Yojana.

➤ **Airport has been declared as an authorized Immigration Check post for entry into/exit**

- **Veer Savarkar International Airport** in **Port Blair** has been declared as an **authorized Immigration Check post** for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.
- Andaman and Nicobar Police has been appointed as the „**Civil Authority**” for the purpose of the immigration check post.

➤ **Prana Raksha web application**

- Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu** launched the **Prana Raksha** web application developed by the Chittoor police at Kuppam, **Andhra Pradesh**.
- The app has been designed to save the **lives of road accident victims** and reach out to women in distress.

➤ **no-detention policy in schools**

- The Indian Parliament on January 3, 2018 passed the **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018** that seeks to do away with the **no-detention policy in schools**.
- The key aim behind the move is to **rebuild the education** system of the country, which is at present broken, as per the Union HRD Minister.

➤ **Abbreviation for GEF**

- The Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare **Shri Parshottam Rupala** informed that the Government had launched a **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** assisted project namely, “**Green – Ag: Transforming Indian Agriculture for global environment benefits and the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes**” in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) during September, 2018.

➤ **Indian states in the latest ranking of Singapore’s ACI**

- In the latest ranking of Singapore’s **Asia Competitiveness Institute” s (ACI), Ease of Doing Business (EDB) index 2018**, Andhra Pradesh emerged on top of the 21 states of India that were considered for the ranking, while Maharashtra and Delhi came in second and third place, respectively.

➤ **Swachh Survekshan 2019**

- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, **Hardeep Singh Puri**, launched the „**Swachh Survekshan 2019**”, the fourth edition of the annual nationwide cleanliness survey of urban India in **New Delhi**.
- The Swachh Survekshan 2019 aims to evaluate the achievements in **the cleanliness level in urban areas** of the country. **It is launched as a part of „Swachh Bharat Abhiyan”**.

➤ **NDWBF inaugurated**

- The **27th** edition of the **New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF)**, which has the **UAE**,s third largest emirate **Sharjah** as its 2019 guest of honour, inaugurated in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The event will conclude on 13th January.
- To promote the idea of inclusive learning through a series of exhibitions of audio, silent, tactile and Braille books, the Book Fair's theme is "**Books for Readers with Special Needs**".

➤ **5th rank in 2016 to the top spot in 2018**

- In the latest ranking of Singapore's Asia Competitiveness Institute's (ACI), **Ease of Doing Business (EDB) index 2018**, Andhra Pradesh emerged on top of the 21 states of India that were considered for the ranking, while Maharashtra and Delhi came in second and third place, respectively.
- Andhra Pradesh rose from the 5th rank in 2016 to the top spot in 2018.

➤ **Indus Food Meet 2019**

- The **Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI)** and union **commerce ministry** is going to organize a two-day mega food international event, the **Indus Food Meet 2019**, at the India Exposition Mart of **Greater Noida** in Uttar Pradesh. The event will conclude on 15th January 2019.
- **Odisha** which will participate as „**Partner State**“ will be setting up its own Pavilion with 30 exhibitors to promote exports of food processing sector.

➤ **Free sops to encourage farmers to enroll in the Atal**

- **Maharashtra** Government announced distribution of free sops to encourage farmers to enrol in the **Atal Solar Krishi Pump Yojana**. Launched in October 2018, it aims to reduce losses due to non-payment of electricity bills and also promote solar energy.
- The things included: two LED bulbs, a DC fan and a mobile charging socket.

➤ **High-level committee for implementation of Clause VI of the Assam Accord**

- Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has notified a High-level committee of nine members under the chairmanship of **Shri M.P. Bezbarauah** for implementation of Clause VI of the Assam Accord.
- The Committee is also tasked to assess the requirement of measures that needs to be taken to protect Assamese and other indigenous languages of Assam.

➤ **Interest-free loans of up to Rs.3 lakh for six lakh women self-help groups (WSHG's)**

- **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** announced interest-free loans of up to **Rs.3 lakh** for **six lakh women self-help groups (WSHG's)** benefitting about 70 lakh women in Odisha.

- This was announced at the 'Mission Shakti' convention attended by about 50,000 women. Also the Odisha government decided to build 'Mission Shakti Home' in each gram panchayat across the state, as a part of „Mission Shakti“ initiative.

### ➤ International kite festival

- The nine-day long international kite festival which marks the **Uttarayan or Makar Sankranti**, the day when winter season starts changing to summer and farmers welcome the approaching harvest season, kicked off at Sabarmati River Front in **Ahmedabad**, Gujarat.
- This year, the Gujarat government has also decided to organise a kite festival at **Kevadia**, the site of the **Statue of Unity**, a memorial to **Sardar Patel** and the also the world's tallest statue.

### ➤ Mega international food and beverage show –Indus Food.

- Odisha will participate as a partner state in the upcoming mega international food and beverage show „Indus Food 2019“.
- The Indus Food meet is a mega international food exposition organized at India Exposition Mart, Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh on January 14 and 15.

### ➤ First railway station of South Central Railway (SCR) zone

- **Secunderabad Railway Station, in Hyderabad**, became the first railway station of **South Central Railway (SCR)** zone to hoist a huge tricolour on a **100-foot** tall pole. The flag would be guarded by the **Railway Protection Force (RPF)**.

### ➤ Quota in jobs and educational institutions for economically weaker sections in general category

- The Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** approved **10 pc quota** in jobs and educational institutions for **economically weaker sections** in **general category**.
- For the implementation of the quota, **Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution** will have to be amended.

### ➤ Indian citizenship to non-Muslims from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

- The Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** cleared the redrafted **Citizenship Amendment Bill** thus providing Indian citizenship to non-Muslims from **Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan**.
- First introduced in Parliament in **2016**, the bill seeks to amend the **Citizenship Act 1955**.

### ➤ Prime Minister Erna Solberg visited India.

- **Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg** has arrived in New Delhi on a three-day state visit to India. She was accompanied by senior officials from her government and a large business delegation. She will participate in the Indo-Norwegian Business Conference.



➤ **Mobile application launched by North Central Railway (NCR)**

- The North Central Railway, NCR has launched a mobile application to help people navigate through Prayagraj city during Kumbh Mela starting from January 15. The „**Rail Kumbh Seva Mobile App**“ will also provide information regarding all the „Mela special“ trains that will be run during the period.
- Additionally, the app will provide a link to the user to buy both unreserved and reserved train tickets.

➤ **Guinness world records for „pouring the highest amount of concrete**

- **The Polavaram irrigation project in Andhra Pradesh** created two Guinness world records for „pouring the highest amount of concrete“ and „largest continuous concrete pour in 24 hours“.
- The Polavaram irrigation project is located in **West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh**.

➤ **Centre for Classical Language**

- The Union Government issued its nod for setting up the **Centre for Classical Language** at the **Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University in Tirur, Kerala**.
- As per the notification, the state government will enter into an MOU with the **Union Ministry of Human Resources Development**.

➤ **New district Kallakurichi**

- **Tamil Nadu** chief minister **Edappadi K Palaniswam** announced the formation of a new district **Kallakurichi** by bifurcating Villupuram district which is one of the large districts in the State. With this, the state will now have 33 districts.
- The decision was taken because the previous coverage of the district Villupuram was huge and it was becoming difficult for the administrators to govern the district.

➤ **2-day long Global Aviation Summit 2019**

- In a first, the 2-day long **Global Aviation Summit 2019** with the theme „**Flying for all**“ will be organized by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** in collaboration with **FICCI** from January 15-16, 2019 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The Summit aims to focus on the celebration of „**Flying for All**“ and to provide a platform to the aviation fraternity to showcase the challenges of the sector.

➤ **Fourth edition of the Raisina Dialogue**

- **The fourth edition of the Raisina Dialogue** has begun in New Delhi. **Norway Prime Minister Ms. Erna Solberg** delivered inaugural address in presence of PM Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.
- The theme of the Dialogue this year is „**A World Reorder: New Geometries; Fluid Partnerships; Uncertain Outcomes**“.

➤ **70-point grading index**

- The HRD ministry has introduced a **70-point grading index** to assess the quality of school education offered by states. A state performance grading will be done wherein the states will be marked out of **1,000 scores on 70 parameters**.
- There will be a **fair competition** to improve each other's performances.

➤ **Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six communities of Assam**

- Union Cabinet has approved Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six communities of Assam. The communities that are proposed to be extended ST status include, **Koch Rajbongshi, Tai Ahom, Chutiya, Matak, Moran and the tea tribes**.
- The move came before the centre introduced the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019 in Lok Sabha. This amendment bill will give a status to the various tribal people.

➤ **Jammu and Kashmir Law Department set up a State law commission.**

- The Jammu and Kashmir administration set up a law commission, with **Justice (Retd) M K Hanjura as its founding chairperson**, to identify redundant and obsolete laws that can be repealed and suggest measures for quick redress of public grievances.

➤ **Online campaign, „#www: Web- WonderWomen‘**

- To recognize the exceptional women who have been driving positive agenda of social change via social media, the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, Government of India, has launched an online campaign, „#www: Web- WonderWomen“.
- The partners of the campaign are: **Breakthrough and Twitter India**.

➤ **Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (CARE)**

- To refine and strengthen the Credibility of Research Publications, The Minister of State (HRD), Dr. Satya Pal Singh announced that the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** approved list of journals and the proposal to establish a **Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (CARE)**.
- The „**CARE Reference List of Quality Journals**“ will be regularly updated and published by the UGC and the Members of the Consortium at their respective websites and will be used for all academic purposes.

➤ **Project Development of North East Circuit**

- The Chief Minister of Meghalaya, **Shri. Conrad K Sangma**, inaugurated the project “**Development of North East Circuit: Umiam (Lake View) – U Lum Sohpetbneng- Mawdiangdiang – Orchid Lake Resort**” under Tourism Ministry's **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**.
- The project was sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism in **July 2016 for Rs. 99.13 Crores**.

➤ **4th edition of Raisina Dialogue.**

- **4th Edition of Raisina Dialogue** was organized by **Ministry of External Affairs** in partnership with Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi. The Theme of the Dialogue was “**A World Reorder: New Geometries; Fluid Partnerships; Uncertain Outcomes**”.
- The Raisina Dialogue whose first edition was held in 2015 is India’s flagship annual **geopolitical and geostrategic conference**.

➤ **India’s longest 300-meter single-lane steel cable suspension bridge**

- Arunachal Pradesh **Chief Minister Pema Khandu** inaugurated India’s longest 300-meter single-lane **steel cable suspension bridge** over **Siang River** in Upper Siang district of state bordering China.
- The suspension bridge, also known as **Byorung Bridge**. It will reduce the distance from **Yingkiong to Tuting town by almost 40 km**. The earlier road length was 192 km.

➤ **The first National Consultation on Child Protection for 2019**

- **First 2019 edition** of the „**National Consultation on Child Protection**” was held at India Habitat Centre, **New Delhi**, under the Chairmanship of the **Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- The next quarterly meeting would be held in May, 2019.

➤ **Bill passed by Lok Sabha by voice vote**

- The Lok Sabha passed “**The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019**” by voice vote after a brief discussion.
- The Bill has been formulated recognizing the need for regulation of the use and application of **Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) technology**, for establishing identity of missing persons, victims, offenders, under trials and unknown deceased persons.

➤ **NCAP in New Delhi**

- The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** launched **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** in **New Delhi**.
- It will be launched in the **43** smart cities falling in the list of the **102 non-attainment cities**, under the Smart Cities program. Selection of **102** non-attainment cities identified with respect to „**Ambient Air Quality India**” report of 2011-15 and WHO report of 2014-2018.

➤ **Agreement for Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project**

- 6 states, **Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand**, in the presence of **Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Shri Nitin Gadkari**, signed an agreement for **Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project** in **New Delhi**.

### ➤ 25th Partnership Summit 2019

- Indian and global leaders on economic policy shall deliberate for two days at the **25th Partnership Summit 2019**, which will be inaugurated by Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu**.

### ➤ 4th meeting of the CTD

- To tap the global value and supply chain by promoting the export of services, organic agricultural produce, the **4th** meeting of the **Council for Trade Development and Promotion (CTDP)**, chaired by **Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu**, was held in **New Delhi**.

### ➤ Global Skill Summit 2019

- The one-day **Global Skill Summit 2019** was held in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**. It is the only state where overall three global summits were organized in a row merely in four years by the state government. It was under the **#MOMENTUM JHARKHAND** campaign.
- The theme of the Summit was: „**Skilling Youth, Enabling Youth**“ .

### ➤ UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME SYSTEM

- Sikkim, though being a smallest state have set a initiative to introduce UBI in the entire nation. Sikkim's long lasting chief minister and head of sikkim's ruling party (sikkim democratic front) **Pawan kumar chamling**, quoted that if everything goes right then sikkim would be the first state to implement UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME SYSTEM and execute it by **2022**.
- This scheme is also regarded as an alternative to social welfare programmes with benefits towards reducing poverty.

### ➤ Ama Ghare LED|| scheme

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the „**Ama Ghare LED**“ scheme, under which about 95 lakh families in the state will each get four LED bulbs free of cost.
- The free LED bulbs will be distributed at Panchayat offices as well as PEETHA (People's Empowerment—Enabling Transparency and Accountability of Odisha Initiative) camps across the state.

### ➤ One Family,One Job scheme

- Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling launched the „**One Family, One Job**“ scheme that envisions jobs to a member of every family which does not have a government job in the state.
- Chamling's Sikkim Democratic Font government has announced that 20,000 youths would immediately be given temporary jobs under the scheme.

### ➤ Organics and Millets 2019 International Trade Fair

- The much sought after **Organics and Millets-2019 International Trade Fair**, organized by the Government of Karnataka's Department of Agriculture, will be held from **18th to 20th January 2019 in Bengaluru's Palace Grounds**.
- The flagship event will revolve around the theme: K-Source, celebrating the State of Karnataka as the source for Next Gen Smart Foods.

### ➤ Human Space Flight Centre

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is setting up a „**Human Space Flight Centre**“ in **Bengaluru**, which will support its quest of making country's maiden manned space mission a success.
- Gaganyaan, an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft is intended to be the foundation of the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme.

### ➤ 6th annual \_ Women of India Organic Festival.

- The **three-day 6th annual „Women of India Organic Festival“** commenced at Leisure Valley, Sector-10, **Chandigarh**. This is the **first time** the event is being held in Chandigarh. It has been organized by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- It aims to celebrate and promote women farmers and entrepreneurs in the **organic sector** from the remotest parts of India.

### ➤ 29th Indian Paint Conference-2019

- The **3-day 29th Indian Paint Conference-2019** commenced in **Agra, Uttar Pradesh**. It would conclude on **January 13, 2019**.
- The theme of the Conference is \_ Paints Pe Charcha – Naye Aayaam'.

### ➤ Constitution Act, 2019 which grants 10 percent reservation in jobs

- The President of India, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind** has given his assent to the Constitution (One Hundred and third Amendment) Act, 2019 which grants **10 per cent reservation** in jobs and educational institutions to the **economically weaker sections in the general category**.
- The Act amends Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution to provide reservation to the economically weaker sections in the general category.

### ➤ National Youth Parliament Festival 2019

- Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Col Rajyavardhan Rathore** on January 12, 2019 launched the **National Youth Parliament Festival 2019** at a function in **New Delhi**. The festival will continue till 24th of February 2019. The theme of the festival is- **Be the Voice of New India and Find solutions and contribute to policy**.
- **This programme is launched in accordance with National Youth Day.**

### ➤ 4th meeting of CTD

- Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, **chaired the 4th meeting** of the Council for Trade Development and Promotion (CTDP) **in New Delhi**.
- Suresh Prabhu informed in the meeting that the Government of India has formulated an Agricultural Export Policy for the first time with a focused plan to boost India's agricultural exports to USD 60 billion by 2022.

### ➤ 25th edition of Partnership Summit 2019

- The **25th edition of Partnership Summit 2019**, a global platform for dialogue, debate, deliberation and engagement among Indian and global leaders on economic policy and growth trends in **India was held in Mumbai**.
- The **two-day** event was **inaugurated** by the **Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu**.

### ➤ Ordinance promulgated - triple talaq or —Talaq-e-Biddat

- **Ministry of Law and Justice announced** that President Kovind has promulgated **The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance, 2019**. The ordinance is to protect the rights of married Muslim women and criminalise the practice of triple talaq or Talaq-e-Biddat||.
- On this occasion, The President also re-promulgated Companies Amendment Ordinance 2019 and Indian Medical Council Amendment Ordinance 2019.

### ➤ 10% reservation for economically weaker sections of the general category

- Gujarat has become the first state to implement the **10% reservation for economically weaker sections of the general category**. This comes a day after President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the bill.

➤ **single-use plastic products will be banned in the Union Territory of Puducherry**

- **Puducherry government has imposed a ban on the sale and use of plastic products** in the Union Territory from March 1.
- On March 23 last year, the Maharashtra government had issued a notification, imposing a ban on the manufacture, use, sale and distribution of all plastic materials like plastic bags, spoons, plates, bottles and thermocol items.

➤ **9th International Micro Irrigation Conference on Modern Agriculture**

- Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India is organizing the **9th International Micro Irrigation Conference on Modern Agriculture at Aurangabad in Maharashtra** from January 16–18, 2019.
- The event will be a multi-disciplinary dialogue in the form of a conference discussing issues related to micro irrigation for modern agriculture and various related issues like new techniques in micro irrigation for increased crop productivity, micro irrigation in cluster level farming etc.

➤ **special weather services for the benefit of people visiting Prayagraj during Kumbh Mela**

- Union Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment and Forests and Climate Change, **Dr Harshvardhan** launched the special weather services for the benefit of people visiting Prayagraj during **Kumbh Mela** at a function in New Delhi.

➤ **country's largest startup ecosystem**

- **Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan** launched country's largest startup ecosystem, integrated startup complex **under the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)**, at the **Technology Innovation Zone (TIZ)**, in **Kochi, Kerala**.

➤ **Government has launched which initiative on GeM**

- Government eMarketplace (GeM) has launched an **initiative – Womaniya on GeM** – to enable women entrepreneurs and self-help groups to sell different products at the platform.
- GeM is an online platform of the ministry for procurement of goods and services by government departments, public sector units, and other agencies.

➤ **Bolangir-Bichhupali railway line**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Bolangir-Bichhupali railway line in Balangir, Odisha**.



- The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for a permanent building at the Kendriya Vidyalaya at Sonepur and inaugurated new Passport Sewa Kendras at Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapur, Puri, Phulbani, Bargarh and Balangir.

### ➤ The Global Aviation Summit 2019

- Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the **Global Aviation Summit 2019 in Mumbai**. The two-day summit, with a theme „Flying for all-especially the next 6 Billion“, is being organised by Ministry of Civil Aviation in association with FICCI.
- It offers stakeholders an opportunity to explore, deliberate and understand how technology-driven innovations will change air travel in the decades to come.

### ➤ Regional Centre of NIPCCD at Mohali, Punjab

- Minister of Women and Child Development, **Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi** inaugurated Regional Centre of National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) at **Mohali, Punjab**. It is a premier organisation devoted to promotion of voluntary action research, training and documentation in the overall domain of women and child development.
- This organisation have already four such Regional Centres one each at **Bangalore, Guwahati, Indore and Lucknow** besides the Headquarters at **New Delhi**.

### ➤ First Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme

- The **First Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme** was organised by **Ministry of External Affairs** in New Delhi. The event will be concluded on 1st February 2019.
- The Fellowship Programme, which is being held at the **Foreign Services Institute, New Delhi** will be attended by Young Diplomats from 27 countries.

### ➤ SAKSHAM

- Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan flagged off **SAKSHAM (Sanrakshan Kshмата Mahotsav)** Vans to promote and create awareness among people on the need of oil and gas conservation for the future and the methods to do it.
- The van will travel to 30 districts to create awareness on conservation of energy for a better future.

### ➤ Where did the 6th „Women of India Organic Festival‘ held?

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is organised the three-day **6th „Women of India Organic Festival“** at **Leisure Valley, Chandigarh**, to celebrate and promote women farmers and entrepreneurs in the organic sector from the remotest parts of India.

- The festival aims to encourage Indian women entrepreneurs and farmers to connect with more buyers and thus, empower them through financial inclusion, while promoting organic culture in India.

### ➤ Global Aviation Summit (GAS) 2019

- The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, **Shri Suresh Prabhu** inaugurated the **Global Aviation Summit (GAS) 2019** which is being organised by **Ministry of Civil Aviation** in association with **Airport Authority of India (AAI)** and **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** in Mumbai.
- **The Vision 2040** for aviation sector and the **Air Cargo Policy** was launched during the summit.

### ➤ Jai Kisan Rin Mukti Yojana

- “**Jai Kisan Rin Mukti Yojana**” scheme was launched by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shri. Kamal Nath**. It is **Rs. 50,000 crore** farm loan waiver scheme for farmers. The loan waiver forms could be submitted till February 5 and farmers would start getting the benefits from February 22.

### ➤ slogan used by the devotees commencing the Kumbh mela

- The **55-day long Kumbh Mela 2019** commenced with the Shahi Snan of Akharas at Sangam- the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and the mystical Saraswati -at **Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh**. “**Chalo Kumbh Chale**” was the slogan used by the devotees commencing the mela.
- An area of 20 lakh sq. ft area, was designated for the street art projects under an initiative by Kumbh Mela Authority called “**Paint my city**”

### ➤ UNNATI programme of (ISRO)

- **Minister of State in Department of Space Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the 1st batch of **UNNATI** programme of Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**. The full form of **UNNATI** is: **Unispace Nanosatellite Assembly and Training** programme.
- It has been launched by ISRO as part of initiative by **United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs** to commemorate the **50th** anniversary of the **first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE-50)**.

### ➤ Gandhian Resurgence Summit

- Honorable President of India **Shri. Ramnath Nath Kovind** inaugurated the three-day **Gandhian Resurgence Summit** on the occasion of Father of the Nation **Mahatma Gandhi**’s **150** birth anniversary at **Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh**. It concludes on 19th January, 2019.

➤ **9<sup>TH</sup> International Micro irrigation:**

- **Union Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated the **three-day long 9th International Micro irrigation** conference at **Aurangabad, Maharashtra**. The conference would conclude on January 18, 2019.
- The Theme of the conference was: **“Micro Irrigation and Modern Agriculture”**.

➤ **The first National Sports Meet 2019 for Tribals**

- The **first National Sports Meet 2019 for Tribals** was organised by the Ministry of Tribal Welfare in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- Tribal children of Ekalavya Model Residential Schools from 20 states participated in the program.

➤ **Global Housing Technology Challenge-India**

- **Shri Hardeep S. Puri, Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** launched the **“Global Housing Technology Challenge-India” (GHTC- India)** in **New Delhi**. This will be implemented under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) Mission**.
- Under this, the best globally available innovative construction technologies would be adopted by India to deliver ready to live-in houses in a shorter time, with lower cost and quality construction.

➤ **SĀNJHI – MUJH MEIN KALĀKĀR**

- To document and promote direct public-participation in the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and diverse cultural traditions of the country, the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, **Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA)** launched the second phase of the Web Campaign **„SĀNJHI –MUJH MEIN KALĀKĀR”**.

➤ **10th India Rubber Expo – 2019**

- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, **Suresh Prabhu** inaugurated the **three-day 10th India Rubber Expo – 2019** at the Bombay Exhibition Centre in **Mumbai**. It concludes on 19th January, 2019.
- The India Rubber Expo is Asia’s largest rubber expo. The event offers a unique opportunity for Indian companies to meet and collaborate with overseas companies.

### ➤ **Diffo Bridge over Chipu River in Lower Dibang Valley District**

- Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the 426.60 metre long **Diffo Bridge over Chipu River in Lower Dibang Valley District in Arunachal Pradesh.**
- In addition to enhancing operational capability, the 329-metre bridge will usher economic prosperity for people of Namsai, Lohit, Anjaw and Lower Dibang districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

### ➤ **Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme**

- A **Regional Conference on „Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme“** was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Programme Implementing Agencies including NGOs and state government representatives from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Goa were present for the conference.

### ➤ **BES EXPO 2019**

- Information and Broadcasting Secretary Amit Khare and TRAI Chairman RS Sharma inaugurated the 25th International conference and exhibition on terrestrial and satellite broadcasting, **BES EXPO 2019 in New Delhi.**
- The **theme for this exhibition is Next Gen Broad casting in the IT World.**

### ➤ **The second world orange festival**

- The **second World Orange Festival has begun in Nagpur.** The festival, while offering its famed oranges to the world, will also showcase and brand the exquisite fruit in order to boost its export.

### ➤ **3rd state to approve the 10 per cent reservation for economically backward**

- **Uttar Pradesh** became the **third state** after **Jharkhand** and **Gujarat** to approve the **10 per cent reservation** for economically backward among upper castes in jobs and educational institutions.
- The Reservation for the poor among upper castes came into effect on 14th January 2019, when Parliament passed –The Constitution (124 Amendment) Bill 2019

### ➤ **second defence innovation hub after Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu**

- **Nashik in Maharashtra** will be the site of the **country" s second defence innovation hub** after Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu. The defence innovation hub at Nashik will help local industries and entrepreneurs and further the Centre's Make in India push in the country's defence sector.

### ➤ School Fagat-Hansi|| Mission

- **Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh launched „School Fagat-Hansi“ mission**, an initiative under the Government's popular **„Go to Village“** mission.
- The scheme has been introduced with an ambitious objective to give renewed thrust towards the improvement of government schools both in terms of physical and manpower infrastructure.

### ➤ Know Your Budget' series

- **Finance Ministry** started **„Know Your Budget“** series to educate people on Twitter about the importance of Union Budget and its making.
- The series began with explaining the terms: **Union Budget** and **Vote on Account**. The government on February 1, 2019 would unveil the interim Budget for **2019-20**.

### ➤ National Museum of Indian Cinema

- Prime Minister of India, **Shri Narendra Modi** launched the **Country's First National Museum of Indian Cinema** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra** that seeks to portray over a century-old journey of movies in India.
- The National Museum of Indian Cinema was build under the guidance by the **Museum Advisory Committee headed by noted film maker Shyam Benegal**.

### ➤ Free health services under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY)

- Odisha Chief Minister, **Shri Naveen Patnaik** announced the extension of free health services under **Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY)** to all medical colleges and hospitals of Odisha from 1st February 2019.
- BSKY was launched on 15th August 2018 by Odisha Government. This scheme provide free medical services to all at government colleges and hospital irrespective of the category of the patients without any requirement of income, residence or any other document.

### ➤ Agro-solutions for smart and Sustainable Agriculture

- Vice-President of India **Shri Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated the 2-days **Agri-Vision 2019 conference** on **“envisioning Agro-solutions for smart and Sustainable Agriculture”** in Hyderabad, Telangana. The conference was concluded on 18th January 2019.

### ➤ Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor in the Tiruchirapalli district

- Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the **Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor in the Tiruchirapalli district of Tamil Nadu**, with various private and public sector industries announcing an investment of around Rs 3100 crores.

This will be the country's second defence industrial corridor after the **first one was launched in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh** August last year.

### ➤ Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit 2019

- Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit 2019 at **Mahatma Mandir in Gandhi Nagar** concluded on 20th January. 75 member delegation of Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council participated in this Summit.
- This year United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan & Morocco were the **partner countries** for 9th edition of Vibrant Gujarat.

### ➤ logo unveiled by Tripura government

- The Tripura government has unveiled an official logo for the state's tea to popularise the beverage and to promote the potentiality of tourism.
- The **logo features Tripura's iconic landmark, the "Neermahal"** which is the largest and one-of-its-kind water palace in India.

### ➤ Manohar Lal Khattar laid the foundation stone of –Haryana Bhawan

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar laid the **foundation stone of "Haryana Bhawan" at the "Statue of Unity" complex in Kevadiya, Gujarat.**
- Probably Haryana is the first state of the country that has laid the foundation stone for the construction of its state house in this complex.

### ➤ Danish Cultural Institute

- In a bid to boost people-to-people ties and cultural exchanges, **Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen inaugurated a Danish Cultural Institute in New Delhi.**
- Headquartered in Denmark, the Danish Cultural Institute has been engaged in fostering mutual understanding between people and cultures since 1940.

### ➤ Startup & Innovation policy 2018-2023'

- Tamil Nadu government released „**Startup & Innovation policy 2018-2023**“ with a mission to provide an innovative ecosystem for startups registered in the State and to make Tamil Nadu a **Global Innovation hub for startups** by 2023.

### ➤ social security pension under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY)

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced in a video conference on **"Ama Gaon, Ama Bikash"** a hike of Rs 200 per month in the social security pension under **Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY).**

- The state government launched Madhu Babu Pension Yojana on **January 1, 2008**, by merging two pension schemes – **Old Age Pension and Odisha Disability Pension schemes**.
- **Uttar Pradesh government announced a monthly pension to the destitute women**
- UP government announced to give a monthly pension of Rs500 to the destitute women in **Varanasi**. This measure came immediately after the implementation of 10 per cent reservation for economically weak in the general category in the upcoming educational year.
- The pension will be provided to Hindu sadhus who are above the age of 60. This announcement was made when **Prayagraj** in Uttar Pradesh is hosted **Kumbh Mela 2019**.
- **Government decided to induct women in military police**
- Government decided to induct **20%** women in military police. This decision is taken with motive to represent women in the armed force, they will be appointed for the **first time in Personnel Below Officer Rank, PBOR**.
- Their job criteria would be investigating offences like rape cases, policing cantonment and extending support to the civil police whenever needed.
- **Government approved Setting up of Three Naval air Squadrons**
- Government approved Setting up of **Three Naval air Squadrons in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu**. This Decision is taken to enrich the Indian Navy's Overall Strength.
- In addition to this approval Government of India also approved recruitment of ManPower for Dornier Surveillance Squadrons located in Kerala and Andaman Islands.
- **15<sup>th</sup> edition of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas**
- The 3 day event of the **15<sup>th</sup> edition of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas** begins at **Varanasi** in Uttar Pradesh for the first time.
- „**Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India**“ is the theme for this year.
- **committee constituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry?**
- The **Baba Kalyani led committee** constituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to study the existing **Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** policy of India submitted its report to **Union Minister for Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu** in **New Delhi**.
- The report says that if **India is going to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025** then the current environment of manufacturing competitiveness and services has to undergo a basic paradigm shift.



### ➤ Inter-state bridge in Jammu and Kashmir?

- Nitin Gadkari to inaugurate first inter-state bridge in Jammu and Kashmir. It was built at a cost of **Rs 150 crore** in a span of three and a half years linking areas of **Katthua district with Punjab**.
- The bridge also called as Keediyar-Gandiyal bridge is 1.2 km-long on the river **Ravi**

### ➤ India Steel 2019 Exhibition and Conference

- The **4th** International Exhibition & Conference on Steel Industry, **India Steel 2019 Exhibition and Conference** was organised by **Ministry of Steel** in association with Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (**FICCI**) at NSE Complex Goregaon, **Mumbai**.
- The theme of the event is “**Balancing Steel Demand & Supply Dynamics: Building a New India**”.

### ➤ Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF)

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister, **Pema Khandu declared Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF)** as the —State Festival|| during a valedictory ceremony of the fourth edition of the festival at Seijosa in East Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF) is only conservation festival of Arunachal Pradesh.

### ➤ Economically weaker sections (EWS)

- **Andhra Pradesh government** decided to give only **five per cent reservation to the economically weaker sections (EWS)** under the Centre's 10 per cent quota, setting aside the rest to the upper caste Kapus in its capital city **Amaravathi**

### ➤ Atal Seva Kendra as Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra

- **Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot** said that the state government has decided to reverse the **Atal Seva Kendra** (seva kendras at village panchayat and panchayat samiti level) as **Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra**, the original name.
- In 2014, former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje-led government had renamed the kendras to honour former prime minister late **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** on his birth anniversary.

### ➤ World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH, **Shripad Naik** inaugurated **2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019** in **Goa**. International drug regulators who are dealing with homeopathic or traditional medicines from various countries participated in the forum.

➤ **SeaVigil**

- **Indian Navy** commenced largest ever coastal defence exercise **SEA VIGIL** in Indian Coast. Sea Vigil Exercise was a tri service exercise **TROPEX (Theatre-level Readiness Operational Exercise)** which is conducted by Indian Navy in every 2 years.
- The Exercise will strengthen the national security as it gave a realistic assessment of strengths and weaknesses. The aim of the Exercise Sea Vigil is to validate the effectiveness of measures taken since terror attack in Mumbai on 26/11.

➤ **Boost to electric vehicles manufacturing in the state**

- Tamil Nadu Government organised the 2nd edition of Global Investor summit in Chennai. This summit is to be concluded on January 24, 2019 .
- The state government would soon unveil **e-vehicle policy** to give a boost to electric vehicles manufacturing in the state.

➤ **Northeast Railway to enhance security of women in railway station**

- The Northeast Railway sector has launched a dedicated woman squad „**JOYMATI BAHINI**“ to enhance security of women in railway station and trains. this has been launched in **Kamakhya station** of **Guwahati**.
- The ‘**Joymati Bahini**’ was launched recently by NF Railway’s Inspector General and Principal Chief Security Commissioner **B B Mishra**.

➤ **Dilshad Garden to New Bus Adda**

- The Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** led Union Cabinet approved the extension of **9.41-km**-long Delhi Metro corridor from **Dilshad Garden** to **New Bus Adda** in **Ghaziabad**. The extension will form the second metro line in Ghaziabad and the first metro link connecting the **interiors of the city**.

➤ **The military exercise —IAFTX 2019**

- With the aim to synergise humanitarian mine action and joint peace operations, the **Indian Africa Field Training Exercise (IAFTX)** will be held in **Pune** from March 18 to 27.
- Delegates from Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, South Africa, Tanzania, Namibia, Mozambique, Uganda, Niger and Zambia are attending the conference.

➤ **New e-commerce platform re-weave.in**

- **Microsoft India** launched a new e-commerce platform „**re-weave.in**“ under **project ReWeave** to aid handloom weavers. The e-commerce platform would connect artisans to the buyers directly enabling them to expand to newer customers and markets.
- Project ReWeave was initiated by **Microsoft India** (R&D) Pvt. Limited in 2016 as part of its Philanthropies efforts, with the aim to revive the handloom weaving ecosystem in India.

➤ **Naval Air Base INS KOHASSA**

- Navy Chief Admiral **Sunil Lanba** will commission the new **Naval Air Base „INS Kohassa”** at **Diglipur in Andaman and Nicobar Islands**. The airbase will be used to handle operations of helicopters and small aircraft like the Dornier.

### ➤ Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana** under which a group of Indian diaspora will be taken on a government-sponsored tour of religious places in India twice a year.
- All people of Indian-origin aged **45 to 65** can apply and a group will be selected out of them with first preference given to people from „Girmitiya countries” such as **Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica.**

### ➤ creation of the GSTAT

- The Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** approved the creation of the **National Bench of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)** to ensure better resolution of GST-related disputes. The National Bench would be set up in **New Delhi.**
- The main objective to create the bench is to fast-track the process of GST-related dispute resolution and hear appeals related to disputes between states, as well as disputes between the Centre and states.

### ➤ National Conference for Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs)

- Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of skill development implemented **new reforms for Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) to enhance skill ecosystem and entrepreneurship in most of the remotest areas of India under centre” s flagship programme Skill India** at the **National Conference for Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) in New Delhi.**

### ➤ Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2019

- The second edition of **Tamil Nadu** government’s ambitious two-day **Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2019** which aimed at showcasing the state’s potential business opportunities and wooing investment was inaugurated at Chennai Trade Centre, **Chennai, Tamil Nadu.**
- The event had managed to exceed the target investment of Rs 2 lakh crore and has witnessed the signing of **304** Memorandums of Understanding (**MoUs**) worth **Rs 3.4 lakh crore** with promise of job opportunities for about **10.5 lakh** people in the state.

### ➤ South Africa’s President

- South Africa President **Cyril Ramaphosa** arrived in Delhi for his first state visit ahead of the **Republic Day celebration parade**, where he is the chief guest. Ramaphosa is **second** South Africa’s President after Nelson Mandela to be the chief guest at the Republic Day parade.

➤ **India's lightest ever satellite with imaging satellite Microsat R using PSLV C44**

- **India** opened the year's space campaign by putting into orbit defence imaging satellite "**Microsat R**" for the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and students-built nano-satellite "**Kalamsat**" in a copy book style.
- **India** has successfully launched its **46th flight of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C44)** carrying **Kalamsat**, a communication satellite developed by students and India's military satellite **Microsat-R** from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota**.

➤ **Energy Banking mechanism**

- **Nepal and India** have agreed to set up an „**Energy Banking**“ mechanism that would help the Himalayan country export its surplus electricity to neighbour India during the monsoon season and import power during its lean season in winter.
- The agreement on the „**Energy Banking**“ mechanism was arrived at during a meeting between the Nepali and Indian Energy Secretaries in Pokhara.

➤ **State Tiger Protection Force to save the Big Cat population**

- **The Telangana government** has decided to form a „**State Tiger Protection Force**“ to save the Big Cat population in the State. The 112-member-armed STPF will be headed by an Assistant Conservator of Forests to protect tiger population in **Amarabad and Kawal Tiger Reserves**.

➤ **Technical Advisory Group of National Informatics Centre**

- Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of National Informatics Centre (NIC) inaugurated a **two-day Technology Conclave in New Delhi**.
- The theme of the conclave was "**Technologies for Next Gen Governance**". It concluded on 23rd January, 2019.

➤ **Yuva Swabhimana Yojana**

- On the occasion of Republic Day, **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister **Kamal Nath** announced the launch of the „**Yuva Swabhimana Yojana**“ for youths from the economically weaker sections in urban areas.
- Under this scheme, **100 days** of employment will be provided to youths from economically weaker sections in urban areas. They will also be given skill training.

➤ **Hindi word of the year 2018 by Oxford Dictionaries**

- **Oxford Dictionaries** announced that „**Nari Shakti**“ as its **Hindi Word of the Year for 2018** at the ongoing **Jaipur Literature Festival**. The Hindi Word of the Year is a word or expression that has attracted a great deal of attention and reflects the ethos, mood or preoccupations of the past year.

- Derived from Sanskrit, Nari means = woman' and Shakti means = power'. Today the term is used to symbolise women taking charge of their own lives.

### ➤ Amul Camel Milk

- Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd, venture of dairy brand **Anand Milk Union Limited or Amul** has launched the Camel milk first time in the brand name of „**Amul Camel Milk**“ in selective areas of Gujarat.
- Initially = Amul Camel Milk' will be launched in areas like **Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad and the Kutch of Gujarat**.

### ➤ cable stayed bridge over river Mandovi

- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri **Nitin Gadkari** will inaugurate the newly built, **5.1 km long, four-lane, cable stayed bridge over river Mandovi in Goa**.
- It will facilitate routing of Mumbai bound traffic coming in from **Bangalore via Ponda route and Old Goa towards NH-17**, bypassing the main **Panjim City**.

### ➤ centres at IIT Madras in Chennai

- Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment, Forests & Climate Change, **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** launched three important centres at IIT Madras in **Chennai**.
- The first centre was **DST –IITM Solar Energy Harnessing Centre** which would focus on a wide range of research activities such as silicon solar cells that would provide high efficiency in India.

### ➤ India's first indigenous semi-high speed train was renamed

- Highlighting the success of Make in India and contribution of Indian workers, Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal, **renamed** India's first indigenous semi-high speed train „**Train 18**“ as „**Vande Bharat Express**“.
- Vande Bharat Express** will run from **Delhi to Varanasi** taking stops at Kanpur and Prayagraj.

### ➤ E-courts services

- Department of Justice (DoJ) has decided to deliver e-courts services to the litigant public through around two lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs) so as to provide efficient and time bound access to the Courts services.
- e-courts services are rolled through digital mediums like Email, SMS, Mobile App and some other platforms.

➤ **committee to hear upon the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid**

- Supreme Court constituted a new **five-judge committee** to hear upon the politically sensitive **Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land title dispute in Ayodhya**.
- The new committee members are **Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S.A. Bobde, D.Y. Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S.A. Nazeer**. Justices Bhushan and Nazeer are the new members in the bench.

➤ **Operation Olympics' commenced**

- An expert programme „**Operation Olympics**“ managed by **Kerala's** Sports Department and State Sports Council was commenced to train 123 athletes in 11 disciplines for **2020 Tokyo Olympics**.
- The programme has the objective to provide international standard training to the athletes with the help of eminent trainers from both India and abroad.

➤ **constitutional validity of Article 35-A**

- The Supreme Court said it will be taking an **“in-chamber” decision** on the listing of petitions challenging the **constitutional validity of Article 35-A**, which provides special rights and privileges to permanent residents of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The oral observation came from a **Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi** in response to an oral mentioning for early hearing of the petitions.

➤ **App launched on the occasion of the 70th Republic day**

- People can watch the highlights of this year's **Republic Day parade at the Rajpath on a mobile application** which has been launched by the **Defence Ministry**.
- **The „RDP INDIA 2019“** app was launched on the occasion of the **70th Republic day**. This new initiative is in sync with the Digital India campaign of the government.

➤ **National Voters Day is observed**

- **The Chief Election Commissioner of India, Sunil Arora and Election Commissioner Shri Ashok Lavasa** inaugurated an International Conference on **“Making our Elections Inclusive and Accessible –on the occasion of 9th National Voters Day held ‘in New Delhi.**
- **National Voters Day** is observed on **25th January every year**. Theme of 2019 voters day is **“My Vote Matters”**



➤ **project announced by Naveen Patnaik for partnership with UNICEF India**

- The Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri **Naveen Patnaik** announced —**Jiban Sampark**|| Project in partnership with **UNICEF India** (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) during after inauguration of Tribal Fair also known as —Adivasi Mela|| on Republic day.
- The Project was announced to spread awareness about the development and welfare initiatives of state government among the particularly vulnerable Tribal Groups of the state.

➤ **Regular pension to Non Resident Keralites**

- Kerala's **Governor P. Sathasivam** in his address to the state assembly announced Kerala government will soon launch a "**Pravasi Dividend Pension Scheme**" to provide regular pension to Non Resident Keralites. This scheme is a part of welfare measures towards **Pravasi Malayalis**.

➤ **Tulip Garden in Uttarakand**

- **The government of Uttarakhand** has obtained the permission to develop the **tulip garden** over 50 hectares of forest land in **Pithoragarh district at a cost of Rs 50 crore**. The Tulip Garden will be developed by **ONGC**.
- It will be the **second Tulip garden in the country** after the one located in Srinagar of Jammu and Kashmir.

➤ **Civil Aviation ministry launched India's first Geographical Indication (GI) store**

- Union Civil Aviation minister **Suresh Prabhu** inaugurated **India's 1st Geographical Indication store at Goa International Airport in Dabolim**. The store is located on the first floor on Departure Terminal, and jointly set up by **Airports Authority of India** and **The Cashew Export Promotional Council of India**.
- The Union Minister informed that currently there are **270 GI** registered products in the country and the store will be a boon for the global tourists.

➤ **GST has been reduced for Haj**

- Union Minister for Minority Affairs **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** stated **that GST on Haj** has been reduced from **18% to 5%** and this will significantly lower the airfare thus saving Haj pilgrims' **113 crore** rupees this year.
- Mr. Naqvi also stated that for the first time since the independence 2,340 women from India will go on 2019 Haj without Mehram.

➤ **Who dedicated Kochi Refinery project and IOCL LPG Bottling Plant to the Nation in Kochi, Kerala?**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated **Kochi Refinery project and IOCL LPG Bottling Plant to the Nation in Kochi, Kerala**. Prime Minister also laid a foundation stone for Petrochemical Complex.
- PM also laid the foundation stone for Skill Development Institute at Ettumanoor. He laid the foundation stone of **AIIMS in Tamil Nadu's Madurai**.

### ➤ **IAFTX2019 was conducted**

- The final planning conference to work out the modalities for **Indian Africa Field Training Exercise (IAFTX)-2019** was conducted **at Pune, Maharashtra**. The joint training exercise is being conducted with more than a dozen African countries & India.
- It aims at synergising humanitarian mine action and joint peace operations. The initial planning conference for the exercise was held in December 2018.

### ➤ **Tests conducted for 15-year-old students in reading, mathematics, science**

- The Programme for International Student Assessment (**PISA**) tests the learning levels of **15-year-old students** in reading, mathematics, science and collaborative problem solving and is conducted by **OECD** every three years. During this inauguration, Recommendation of **5th Dean Committee** have been implemented in all the Agricultural Universities.
- To enhance the participation of students in agricultural business, **READY (Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojana)** is provided to the UG students.

### ➤ **National Salt Satyagraha Memorial was held**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** dedicated to the nation the **National Salt Satyagraha Memorial at Dandi in Gujarat on Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary on 30 January**. The memorial has statues of **Mahatma Gandhi** and 80 Satyagrahis who had marched with him during the historic Dandi Salt March.
- It also has 24-narrative murals depicting various events and stories from the historic **1930 Salt March**.

### ➤ **special scheme to curb infant deaths**

- **The Maharashtra government** launched a special scheme to curb infant deaths. Child Development Minister Pankaja Munde distributed baby-care kits to the children born in primary health centres and government hospitals.
- The scheme is applicable only for the first child and will benefit around four lakh women across the state, Women.

### ➤ **Free education provided to girls in Rajasthan**

- **Free education will be provided to girls in state-run institutions in Rajasthan from July**, Higher Education Minister **Bhanwar Singh Bhati** said. Also, the female students in colleges will be given sanitary napkins free of cost.

## NATIONAL IN MAINS PERSPECTIVE

### ➤ CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT BILL

#### ➤ Why in news?

- The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2016 which recently lapsed saw opposition from various quarters of the country.

#### ➤ Provisions of the Bill

- **Definition of Illegal Migrants:** The Bill amends the Citizenship Act, 1955 to provide that '**persecuted non-Muslim minorities** (Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi & Christian communities) from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, who have arrived in India **on or before December 31, 2014** & living in India without valid travel documents to obtain Indian citizenship, will not be treated as illegal migrants. However, to get this benefit, they must also be exempted from provisions of the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, and the Foreigners Act, 1946 by the central government
- **Citizenship by naturalization:** The amendment reduces the aggregate period of residential qualification for acquiring citizenship by naturalization from 11 years to 6 years, along with continuous stay for last 12 months.
- **Cancellation of registration of Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs):** Bill adds one more provision for cancellation of registration of OCIs for violation of any law in the country.

#### ➤ How will the amendment benefit '**persecuted**' minorities?

- The Bill is said to be **addressing religious discrimination** committed during the partition. Also, in the aftermath of partition religious minorities faced widespread discrimination, particularly in Muslim majority countries.
- The Bill is said to **benefit many people** by allowing them to take up **self-employment, buy property, open bank accounts** and get **driving licences, PAN card and Aadhaar**. For example, it will be of immense benefit to communities like Chakma and Hajongs of Bangladesh.

#### ➤ Opposition to the Bill

- **Religious Discrimination:** The Bill provides **differential treatment to illegal migrants on the basis of their religion**, which may violate Article 14 of the Constitution guaranteeing equality to all persons, citizens and foreigners. o Another issue with listing out non-Muslim minorities is that it **excludes various persecuted minorities** for example **Rohingyas of Myanmar and Ahamadiya in Pakistan**.
- **Choice of countries:** Many have questioned the rationale for adding Afghanistan with countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan, which were a part of India in the pre-independence era and reasons for leaving out other neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Myanmar etc.
- **In conflict with other government initiatives:** like National Register of Citizens (NRC) and Assam Accord 1985. On one hand NRC and the Assam Accord marks the line of eligibility for Indian citizenship in (March) 1971, the bill marks the eligibility line at (December) 2014, thus enlarging the scope and number of people who can be eligible for Indian citizenship. o It also goes **against the spirit of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord**, which requires the government to provide safeguards to protect the culture & socio-linguistic identity of the Assamese people.
- **Threat to local demography:** The local community fears that the prospect of citizenship will encourage migration from Bangladesh and might lead to 'outsiders' dominating indigenous population.

- **Rise of religious sub-nationalist politics:** The Bill has divided the residents of Assam in Brahmaputra Valley (majority of Muslim settlements & mostly anti-Bill) and Barak Valley (Hindu Bengali settlements & pro-Bill). Until now, the sub-nationalist narrative of the North-East focused on opposition to the “foreigners” to preserve ethno-linguistic identities.
- **Wide ground for cancelling OCI registration:** It grants the central government wide discretion to cancel OCI registration, even for minor offences like violation of a traffic law (such as parking in a no-parking zone or jumping a red light).

## ➤ **RESERVATION FOR ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTIONS**

### **Why in news?**

- President gave assent to **The Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, 2019** (124th Constitution Amendment Bill) to provide **10% reservation** in government jobs and educational institutions to the **economically weaker sections (EWS)** among those who are not covered under any reservation plan.

## ➤ **Key features of the amendment**

- The Act **amends Article 15** to enable the government to take special measures (not limited to reservations) for the advancement of “economically weaker sections” (EWS).
- Up to 10% of seats may be reserved for such sections for admission in educational institutions. Such reservation **will not apply** to minority educational institutions.
- The **amendment adds Article 16(6)** which permits the government to reserve up to 10% of all posts for the “economically weaker sections” of citizens.
- The reservation of up to 10% for the EWS will be in addition to the existing reservation cap of 50% reservation for SC, ST and OBCs.
- The central government will notify the “**economically weaker sections**” of citizens on the basis of family income and other indicators of economic disadvantage.
- **Constitutional recognition to Economically Weaker Section (EWS):** For the very first time, economic class is constitutionally recognized as vulnerable section & would form the basis of affirmative action programme. It is a departure from traditional centrality of caste in deciding affirmative action.

## ➤ **Arguments in favour of reservation based on economic status**

- **Need for new deprivation assessment criteria:** Caste, while prominent cause of injustice in India, should not be the sole determinant of the backwardness of a class. This is because of the weakening links between the caste and class in changing circumstances.
- In **Ram Singh v. Union of India (2015)**, SC asserted that social deficiencies may exist beyond the concept of caste (e.g. economic status / gender identity as in transgenders). Hence, there is a need to evolve new yardsticks to move away from caste-centric definition of backwardness, so that the list remains dynamic and most distressed can get benefit of affirmative action.
- **Increasing dissatisfaction among various sections:** Politically, the class issues have been **overpowered by caste issues**. This has created a sense of dissatisfaction amongst communities with similar or poorer economic status but excluded from caste-based reservation.

## ➤ **Arguments against extending reservations on economic basis:**

- **Against equality norm:** To balance the equality of opportunity of backward classes ‘against’ the right to equality of everyone else, a cap of 50% was put on the reserved seats. When the quota exceeds 50% limit, it breaches the equality norm.

- In **M. Nagaraj v. Union of India** (2006), a Constitution Bench ruled that equality is part of the basic structure of the Constitution. The 50% ceiling is a constitutional requirement without which the structure of equality of opportunity would collapse.
- **No under-representation:** The upper caste is adequately represented in public employment. It is not clear if the government has quantifiable data to show that people from lower income groups are under-represented in its service.
- **Problem with the ceiling:** By fixing income ceiling for eligibility at ₹8 lakh a year — same as the 'creamy layer' limit above which OBC candidates become ineligible for reservations — a parity has been created between socially & economically backward classes with limited means.
- **Definition of EWS and allotment of quota:** The issue with current definition of EWS is that it is too broad and would include large sections of population. Further, it also puts families below poverty line and the ones with income of 8 lakh/annum in the same category. o Reservation for SCs/STs and non-creamy layer amongst OBCs has correlation with their respective populations. While there is no such clarity on arriving at the 10% EWS quota.
- Challenges in the identification of beneficiaries: In a country where taxable population is still very low due to misrepresentation of income, implementing economic eligibility criteria would be a bureaucratic nightmare.

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### ➤ Bangladesh's election with a thumping majority

- **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's** alliance won **Bangladesh's** election with a thumping majority, the country's Election Commission announced. It gave her a third straight term following a vote that the opposition rejected as rigged.

### ➤ U.S quit the UNESCO

- **The United states of America (USA)** and **Israel** officially quit the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** amid concerns that the organization fosters anti-Israel bias.
- UNESCO was established in 1945 after the end of world war II to foster peace and it is best known for its World Heritage programs which designates cultural sites and aims to preserve traditions.

### ➤ Tropical storm hit Philippines

- **Tropical Storm Usman**, which entered the Philippines on Christmas Day, emerged as the deadliest weather disaster for the country this year following Typhoon Mangkhut in September.

### ➤ Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

- **Qatar** has withdrawn its membership from **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)**. The country had sent an official notification to the OPEC expressing its wish to **pull out** and to **focus on its liquefied natural gas production** in December.

### ➤ Law signed by US president

- US president has signed the „**Asia Reassurance Initiative Act**“. The law aims at countering the **encroaching influence and growing threat** from China, and to **reinvigorate U.S. leadership in Asia**.
- The act aims to establish a multifaceted U.S. strategy to increase U.S. security, **economic interests, and values in the Indo-Pacific region**.

### ➤ First women amputee to climb Mount Vinson(Highest peak of Antarctica)

- Setting a first-of-its-kind record, **Indian mountaineer 30-year-old Arunima Sinha** became the **first female** amputee to climb **Mount Vinson**, the highest peak of **Antarctica**.
- She was also the world's **first woman amputee** to climb Mount Everest.



➤ **Hindu religious site of Panj Tirath as national heritage**

- The provincial **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** government in northwest Pakistan has declared the ancient Hindu religious site of **Panj Tirath** in the provincial capital **Peshawar** as national heritage.
- Panj Tirath' is named for the five pools of water present at the site and houses a Hindu temple —Shawal Thakardawara|| and a lawn with date palm trees.

➤ **Anti-money laundering bill to ease trade**

- Iranian council known as the **Expediency Council** approved an anti-money laundering bill to ease trade. This bill will be in line with the standards set by the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**.
- Iran is alone with North Korea on the FATF's blacklist — although the Paris-based organisation has suspended counter- measures since June 2017 while Iran works on reforms.

➤ **Cathedral of Nativity on the eve of Coptic Christmas**

- Egypt opened West Asia's largest cathedral in its **New Administrative Capital**, 45 kms away from its capital, Cairo.
- **President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi** inaugurated the newly-built Cathedral of Nativity on the eve of **Coptic Christmas**.

➤ **Islam compatible with socialism and \_sinicize' it within next five years**

- **China** passed law to make Islam compatible with socialism and \_sinicize' it within next **five years**. The law was passed after Chinese government officials met representatives from eight Islamic groups.

➤ **Jim Young Kim resigned recently**

- World Bank President, **Jim Yong Kim** has made the surprise announcement that he is stepping down after six years in the post. His resignation will take effect from 1 February.
- **Kristalina Georgieva**, the World Bank's chief executive officer, will assume the role of interim president.

➤ **Global Report released by UN office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**

- UN office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released a latest Global Report on "**Trafficking in Persons**", which reveals that the number of human trafficking victims around the world is on the rise while armed groups and terrorists are trafficking women and children to generate funds and recruit.
- Trafficking for sexual exploitation is the most prevalent form in European countries, whilst in **sub-Saharan Africa** and the Middle East, forced labour is the main factor driving the illicit trade.



### ➤ India-Central Asia Dialogue

- The first **India-Central Asia Dialogue** will be held in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan** on January 12 and 13. The Dialogue will be co-chaired by External Affairs Minister (EAM) **Sushma Swaraj** and the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, **Abdulaziz Kamilov**.

### ➤ Rank of India in the Henley Passport Index of most powerful passports

- **According to Henley Passport Index**, which keeps in record and analyses of every country's travel afford revealed a report of powerful passport holding country, in which **Japan has retained its position to the top for the consecutive year and India has leaped two steps forward to 79th rank**. A total of 190 countries are analyzed here.

### ➤ 11th edition of EIU Democracy Index 2018

- The **11th edition of EIU Democracy Index 2018** was released by the **Economist Intelligent Unit** compiling the state of democracies in 167 countries in the world. The Index was started in **2006**
- India got a rank of 42 falling in the „**Flawed Democracy**“ category. Among the 167 nations, **Norway** topped the charts. It was followed by: Iceland (2), Sweden (3), New Zealand (4) and Denmark (5) closing off the top 5 rankings.

### ➤ United Nations secretary-general

- The Foreign Minister of Guatemala **Sandra Jovel** notified the United Nations secretary-general about the Government's decision to terminate the agreement which established **the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG)**.

### ➤ 2+2 Inter-Sessional meeting

- The inaugural round of a **2+2 Inter-Sessional meeting** between the **United States** and **India** which focused on the progress of defence and foreign policy issues between the two countries took place in **New Delhi**.

### ➤ Two-day visit to Uzbekistan

- **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** embarked on a **two-day visit to Uzbekistan**. Mrs. Swaraj will be in Samarkand for **the First India-Central Asia Dialogue** which she will co-chair with Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov.
- The Foreign Minister of Afghanistan will participate in the Dialogue as a special invitee for the session dedicated to connectivity issues in the region.

➤ **Macedonia was renamed**

- Macedonia's parliament passed an amendment to the constitution to rename the country as **Republic of North Macedonia**, on a mutual agreement with Greece to put an end to a **27-year rivalry**.
- The agreement was reached between **Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras** and his **Macedonian counterpart Zoran Zaev**. The language of the country would be referred to as **Macedonian** and its people known as **Macedonians**

➤ **IMBEX 2018-19' commenced**

- The second India-Myanmar bilateral Army exercise „**IMBEX 2018-19**“ commenced at **Chandimandir military station** near Chandigarh.
- During the exercise, focus will be on training the Myanmar Army on tactics, procedures, expertise and methodology required by the contingent of the member nations for serving in UN peacekeeping operations.

➤ **14th edition of annual Global Risk Report 2019**

- The **World Economic Forum** released its **14th edition** of annual **Global Risk Report 2019** ahead of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos.
- The report's findings are based on the annual **Global Risks Perception Survey**, which asks the Forum's network of business, government, civil society and thought leaders to gauge the risks facing our world.

➤ **6th City Momentum Index**

- According to the 6th City Momentum Index, released by property consultant JLL, **Bengaluru** has emerged as the **world's most dynamic city** with a robust technology and innovation ecosystem in place. The report is titled: „**JLL City Momentum: The World's Top 20 Most Dynamic Cities**“.
- Among other Indian cities, **Hyderabad** ranked **second** with **Delhi** at **fourth**, **Pune** at **fifth**, **Chennai** at **seventh** and **Kolkata** at **fifteenth** position featuring in top **20** cities.

➤ **7th Meeting of Tourism Ministers of ASEAN-India**

- Union Tourism Minister **K. J. Alphons** co-chaired the 7th Meeting of Tourism Ministers of **ASEAN-India** with Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam, **Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thien**. The Meeting was held in **Ha Long City in Viet Nam**.
- Tourism Ministers welcomed the decision of ASEAN-India Informal summit which was held on 15 November 2018 and launched **ASEAN-India Tourism Cooperation Year 2019**.

➤ **ICMEI**

- The **Embassy of Mongolia and International Chamber of Media and Entertainment Industry (ICMEI)**, India have further strengthened the relationship between India and Mongolia by signing a MoU in the field of **art and culture**.
- **India** has signed a long-term contract **with Uzbekistan** for **supply of uranium ore concentrates** to widen its source base for the nuclear fuel.

➤ **world's largest economy rankings in 2019**

- **India** is likely to surpass the United Kingdom in the **world's largest economy rankings in 2019**, to become world's fifth largest economy, according to a report by global consultancy firm PwC.
- As per the report, while the UK and France have regularly switched places owing to similar levels of development and roughly equal populations, India's climb up the rankings is likely to be permanent.

➤ **Group of 77 from Arab Republic of Egypt**

- **Palestine** took over the chairmanship of the **Group of 77** from **Arab Republic of Egypt**.
- The main functions of G 77 are to promote **collective economic interests and enhance joint negotiating capacity with UN Agencies** and to promote **South-South cooperation for development**.

➤ **Globalization 4.0**

- The 48th **WEF –World Economic Forum** annual meet had begun in **Davos, Switzerland**.
- **Globalization 4.0: Shaping a Global Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution** is the theme of the event.

➤ **4th edition of Arab Economic and Social Development Summit**

- The 4th edition of **Arab Economic and Social Development Summit** held in **Lebanon** capital **Beirut**.
- The summit aimed to make a joint statement on a 29-item agenda that ranges from discussions on an Arab free trade zone and the economic effect of Syrian refugees on host countries.

### ➤ Modern infrastructural facilities to Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies

- **India and Sri Lanka** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to provide modern infrastructural facilities to **Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies of Eastern University in Batticaloa district of Sri Lanka**.
- The project involves refurbishment of the auditorium and construction of a modern building complex with recording cum editing facilities and supply vehicles to the institute through a grant of over 27 crore Sri Lankan rupees from the Government of India.

### ➤ Indian Coast Guard Ship taking part in the drills

- Indian and Japanese Coast Guards started disaster, search and rescue exercises off the coast of Yokohama in Japan. **ICGS Shaunak** is the main Indian Coast Guard Ship taking part in the drills.

### ➤ world's most innovative countries

- India has been ranked in the Bloomberg Innovation Index. **India** is ranked at the **54th Position** with a score of **47.93** out of 100 among the world's most innovative countries according to the **Bloomberg 2019 Innovative Index**.
- **South Korea** has retained its top spot with a score of 87.38, **Germany** ranked second with a score of 87.30.

### ➤ World's longest 3D printed concrete bridge

- World's longest 3D printed concrete bridge was opened in china. It is located on the **Wenzaob ang River** in **Shanghai**. The newly-opened bridge is made with a technology that supplies data and also vibrating wire **stress sensors**.
- The bridge is of **26.3 metre-long** and **3.6-metre-wide** and is made out of 44 hollowed-out 3D printed concrete blocks.

### ➤ International labour organisation (ILO)

- WHO in collaboration with international labour organisation (ILO) to for a global committee to work and implement the fundamental changes in health at work.
- WHO with the support of ILO and OECD implemented the five-year „**Working for Health**“, global action plan that would ensure the necessary workforce for universal health coverage and stimulating economic growth.

➤ **sugarcane juice as the —national drink of the country**

- **The Pakistan government declared sugarcane juice as the “national drink”** of the country. The announcement came after the government conducted a Twitter poll where people were asked to decide on the country’s national drink with two other options orange and carrot besides sugarcane.

➤ **Nitrogen pollution in India and South Asia**

- **United Kingdom (UK)** government has made an announced of a research project to study **Nitrogen** pollution in **India** and **South Asia**. **South Asian Nitrogen Hub** will be led by United Kingdom’s “**Centre for Ecology and Hydrology**” under the new partnership programme.
- The Project will include 50 organizations from across the United Kingdom (UK) and South Asia.

➤ **Malaysia’s new king by the members of the country’s royal families**

- **Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah** was elected as **Malaysia” s new king by the members of the country” s royal families**. The 59-year-old was earlier appointed the Sultan of the Malaysian state of Pahang.
- **He replaced Sultan Muhammad V of Kelantan**, who stepped down recently, making it the first abdication in Malaysia’s history.

➤ **Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies of Eastern University**

- **India** and **Sri Lanka** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide modern infrastructural **facilities to Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies of Eastern University** in Batticaloa district of Sri Lanka.

➤ **Digital currency launched by central banks of the UAE and Saudi Arabia**

- **The central banks of the UAE and Saudi Arabia** have launched a common digital currency called “**Aber**”, which will be used in financial settlements between the two countries through Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers technologies.
- Through this digital currency, both the **United Arab Emirates Central Bank (UAECB)** and the **Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA)** are studying the impact on the improvement and reduction of remittance costs and the assessments of risks.

➤ **Global corruption index in 2018**

- **India has improved its ranking on a global corruption index in 2018**, while its neighbour China lagged far behind, according to the annual index released by an anti-graft watchdog.
- **India rose by three points to 78** in the list of 180 countries in the world, while China ranked 87 and Pakistan 117 in 2018, **the Transparency International** said in its **Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)** for 2018.

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## **SPORTS**

### ➤ **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)**

- The **Sports Authority of India** Director General **Neelam Kapur** announced that The Sports Ministry has earmarked Rs 100 crore for the funding of athletes under the **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)** for their preparations for 2020 Olympics.

### ➤ **Highest international wicket-taker of 2018 with 78 wickets**

- 25 years old Indian fast bowler **Jasprit Bumrah** became the highest international wicket-taker of 2018 with **78 wickets** after taking 9 wickets in the 3rd Test Match against Australia held in Melbourne Cricket Ground, Australia.

### ➤ **Mubadala World Tennis Championship 2018**

- **Serbia's Novak Djokovic** defeated defending champion Kevin Anderson of South Africa 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 to win the **Mubadala World Tennis Championship for the fourth time at Abu Dhabi International Tennis Centre, Abu Dhabi.**

### ➤ **10th RR Lakshya Cup 2018 in senior and junior category**

- Shooter **Divyansh Singh Panwar** from Rajasthan and shooter **Nupur Patil** from Maharashtra have won 10th RR Lakshya Cup 2018 in senior and junior category respectively. Dronacharya Awardee and former National Coach **Prof. Sunny Thomas** was the chief guest of the event.

### ➤ **Sports ministry for funding the athletes under the TOPS**

- Sports ministry has earmarked **Rs. 100 crore for funding the athletes under the (TOPS) Target Olympic Podium Scheme** ahead of 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.
- The scheme was launched in September 2014 to provide financial assistance to potential Olympic medal winners.

### ➤ **Fastest batsman to reach 19000 international runs**

- 30 years old Indian cricket team captain, **Virat Kohli** beats Cricketing legend **Sachin Tendulkar's** to become the **fastest batsman to score 19000 international runs** on the 1st day of 4th Test Match in Sydney against Australia.

### ➤ 80th National Table Tennis Championship

- The **80th National Table Tennis Championship** began at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack. As many as 35 teams, including 550 players from different parts of the country are participating in the mega championship.

### ➤ Hopman Cup , an annual international eight-team indoor hard court tennis

- The **Hopman Cup** which is an annual international eight-team indoor hard court tennis tournament was held in **Perth**, Western **Australia**. It is a mixed competition in which male and female players are on combined teams and represent their countries. The Event was concluded on 5th January 2019.

### ➤ men's 2019 Brisbane International title

- World number nine **Kei Nishikori** defeated Daniil Medvedev of Russia in the summit clash to clinch the 2019 Brisbane International title (men).

### ➤ Highest international wicket-taker of 2018

- Indian fast bowler **Jasprit Bumrah** finishes 2018 as the highest international wicket-taker of 2018 with **78 wickets** after taking 9 wickets in the 3rd Test Match against Australia held in Melbourne Cricket Ground, Australia.
- South African fast bowler **Kagiso Rabada** ranked 2nd in the list of Highest International wicket taker of 2018 with **77 wickets**.

### ➤ Maharashtra Open ATP 250 Doubles Tournament title

- India's top-ranked doubles players **Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan won the Tata Open Maharashtra ATP 250 tournament** in Pune after beating a British pairing of Luke Bambridge and Jonny O'Mara in straight sets.

### ➤ Second edition of the Khelo India Youth Games

- **Maharashtra** is going to host the second edition of the **Khelo India Youth Games** which includes completions in 18 different disciplines at **Balewadi Sports Complex in Pune**. The event will conclude on 20th January 2019.
- Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) is a part **Khelo India** which is the revamped national programme for development of sports in India.



- **African Cup for the fifth time in 2019, by the Confederation of African Football's (CAF) Executive Committee**
  - **Confederation of African Football's (CAF) Executive Committee** announced that **Egypt** will host **African Cup** for the fifth time in 2019. South Africa was the other country who made a bid to host the event.
- **International Boxing Association's (AIBA)**
  - 36 years old boxer, **M C Mary Kom** attained the **first position** in the latest ranking released by the **International Boxing Association (AIBA)** in the **Light Fly 45-48 kilograms** category with **1700 points**.
- **Chef de Mission for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics**
  - Indian Weightlifting Federation President **Birendra Prasad Baishya** is named as Chef de Mission for the **Tokyo 2020 Olympics**.
  - Baishya is also one of the Indian Olympic Association Vice Presidents. Tokyo 2020 organizing committee president is **Yoshiro Mori**.
- **Which state topped the medal tally with 37 golds at the Khelo India Youth Games in Pune?**
  - **Maharashtra topped the medal tally with 37 golds** at the **Khelo India Youth Games in Pune**. It had 111 medals in its kitty with 37 gold, 31 silver and 43 bronze. Delhi was at second position with 35 gold and Haryana too maintains its third position with 29 gold.
  - **10-year old Abhinav Shaw** became the **youngest gold medallist** in the shooting. He teamed up with Mehuli Ghosh to help West Bengal win the 10m air rifle mixed team event.
- **Who set a world record in indoor rowing by completing 1,00,000 (one lakh) metres in 10hours, in above-40 years category, at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata?**
  - Asian Cup gold medallist **Shakil Ahmed** set a world record in indoor rowing by completing **1,00,000 (one lakh) metres** in **10 hours**, in above-40 years category, at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.
  - He also has the record of completing 50,000 metres of simulated rowing in four hours and 13 minutes which is already in the Limca Record Book.

### ➤ India's Women Boxing Coach?

- **Mohammed Ali Qamar** was the man who brought India her first Commonwealth Games gold medal in boxing in 2002. Qamar has added another feather to his illustrious career as he takes over as chief coach for the country's women pugilists.
- Thus, he becomes the youngest ever to get the top job. He, thus, replaces veteran Shiv Singh.

### ➤ 1st National Level Sports Meet for the students of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

- **Shri Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor** Minister of State for Tribal Affairs launched the 1st National Level Sports Meet for the students of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) at G.M.C Balayogi Stadium, Gachibowli, Hyderabad.
- The Minister also launched an app „**EMRS Sports Meet**“ dedicated on the occasion.

### ➤ Failure against Bahrain at the Sharjah Stadium

- Stephen Constantine steps down as the head coach of the **Indian Football** team following the team's exit from 2019 **AFC** (Asian Football Confederation) Asian Cup. **India** faced failure against **Bahrain** at the **Sharjah Stadium**.
- This was Constantine's second regime as India's Head Coach after 2005. He returned to the hot seat in 2015, succeeding Dutch Wim Koeevermans.

### ➤ First Indian and the first Asian batsman to score two double centuries

- The highest run-getter in the Ranji Trophy history, **Wasim Jaffer**, became the **first Indian** and the **first Asian** batsman to score **two double centuries** after turning 40 in first-class cricket.
- This was achieved in the Ranji Trophy quarter-final for **Vidarbha** against **Uttarakhand** in **Nagpur**.

### ➤ Khelo India Youth Games

- The **Khelo India Youth Games** concluded at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Balewadi in Pune with the host **Maharashtra** leading the medals table by winning a mammoth **85 gold, 62 silver and 81 bronze** for a total of **228 medals** in the Games.
- With a total of 228 medals, hosts **Maharashtra** also walked away with the **Overall Trophy** at the Khelo India Youth Games.

➤ **Sir Garbfields Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year**

- Virat Kohli became the **first player** to bag all top three ICC Awards in a single year. He won the **Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year**, the **ICC Men's Test Player of the Year** and the **ICC ODI Player of the year** for his performance in 2018.

➤ **International Cricket Council's (ICC) Emerging Player of the year**

- 21-year Old Wicketkeeper batsman, **Rishabh Pant** was named the "**International Cricket Council (ICC) Emerging Player of the year**" for his brilliant performance in Test Cricket in 2018.

➤ **International Tennis Federation's 25,000-dollar Women's tournament in Singapore**

- **India's Ankita Raina** has won the **International Tennis Federation's 25,000-dollar Women's tournament in Singapore**. In the Final, Ankita defeated top seed **Arantxa Rus** of the **Netherlands**, 6-3, 6-2. She toppled four seeded players in the tournament to win her first title of the season and eighth overall.

➤ **Champion of the Indonesia Masters 2019**

- Ace **Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal** was crowned champion of the **Indonesia Masters 2019** after her opponent Carolina Marin pulled out of the summit clash due to an injury.
- Saina was the runner-up in the 2018 edition of the Indonesia Masters.

➤ **Australian Open tennis tournament**

- **The Australian Open** is a tennis tournament held annually in **Melbourne Park, Australia**. The tournament is run by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).
- **Novak Djokovic from Serbia** won the Men's Singles event and **Naomi Osaka of Japan** won the Women's singles event.

➤ **Youngest cricketer to score a half century in international cricket**

- Nepal's **Rohit Paudel** became the youngest man to hit an international fifty. Rohit Paudel of Nepal scored 55 for Nepal in the 2nd ODI against **UAE** to become the youngest man to score a half-century in one-day internationals.

➤ **New South Wales men's Amateur Golf Championship in Australia**

- **India's Kartik Sharma** won the **New South Wales men's Amateur Golf Championship in Australia**. Kartik notched up a magnificent win over **Australia's Nathan Barberie** in the scheduled 36-hole final to emerge as champion.

- Kartik had also won the Indian golf union **western India amateur golf championship 2018**.
- **Round-the-world yacht race after 212 days**
- French sailor **Jean-Luc Van Den Heede** has won the round-the-world yacht race after **212 days** alone at sea without modern instruments.
- The **73-year-old**, who completed his sixth circumnavigation of the globe, became the oldest to complete the **30,000-mile Golden Globe race**.

## **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

- **Saubhagya – ‘Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana’**
- The American space agency **NASA**,s **New Horizons** spacecraft performed the farthest flyby in history as it approached the **Kuiper Belt** object **Ultima Thule**.
- **Ultima** is an object in the **Kuiper belt** which is a band of frozen material that orbits the Sun more than 2 billion km (1.25bn miles) further out than the **Neptune**; and 1.5 billion km beyond even the dwarf planet **Pluto**, which New Horizons visited in 2015.
- **WAND**
- Scientists have developed a device named **WAND** which stands for “**Wireless artifact-free neuromodulator device**” that works like a “**Pacemaker for the brain**” to monitor the brain’s electrical activity and potentially deliver fine-tuned treatments to patients suffering from diseases like epilepsy and Parkinson’s.
- **Simple paper kit that can test freshness of milk**
- Scientists at **Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati** have developed a simple paper kit that can test freshness of milk and tell how well it has been pasteurized.
- The kit is sided with smart phone app to ensure that milk is consumed before it turns too sour.
- **United states of America (USA) successfully launched a telescope (X-Calibur instrument)**
- Scientists from **Washington University** of United states of America (USA) successfully launched a **telescope (X-Calibur instrument)** from the McMurdo Station in **Antarctica** that will analyze **X-rays** arriving from distant **neutron stars, black holes and other exotic celestial bodies**.

### ➤ Tropical cyclone **‘Pabuk’**

- A warning was issued by **The India Meteorological Department (IMD)** that a Cyclonic storm **“PABUK”** over **Andaman Sea and neighbourhood** is moving towards west-northwestwards with a speed of 21 kmph.

### ➤ First-ever soft landing on the far side of the moon

- Lunar rover **Yutu-2 or Jade Rabbit-2 of the Chang’e-4** spacecraft made the first-ever soft landing on the far side of the moon. Images were sent back to the Earth via the relay satellite **“Queqiao”**.
- China’s lunar probe is a part of its **“Made in China 2025”** project. It follows a homegrown Chinese Global Positioning System named BeiDou Navigation Satellite System.

### ➤ NASA’s transiting exoplanet survey satellite (TESS)

- **NASA’s** transiting exoplanet survey satellite (TESS) has discovered a planet named **HD21749b** orbiting around the **star HD 21749**, which lies about **53 light years** from earth in the faint constellation reticulum. TESS does this work by carving the sky up into overlapping sectors, studying each one for 27 days at a time.
- It is a —sub Neptune||, around three times bigger than earth and 23 times more massive than earth, which means it’s likely gaseous rather than rocky.

### ➤ Police-E-Eye’ for the public to report on traffic violations to police

- **Coimbatore** city traffic police launched a mobile application **“Police-E-Eye”** for the public to report on traffic violations to police and to keep a check on the same.
- The violations so filed can be photographed which will be sent to the police along with the location, time and date with the help of GPS.

### ➤ PNAS

- **IIT-Madras** team created **“space fuel”** by trapping **carbon dioxide** in crystalline form with the help of water molecules. This would in future help to curb greenhouse gases. This was made in vacuum, one thousand billion times below the atmospheric pressure called **ultra-high vacuum (UHV)** and temperature close to minus **263** degree Celsius.
- The Study was published in the journal **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)**.

### ➤ Chairman of Indian Space Research Organization

- **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** chairman **K Sivan** announced that the **1st Gaganyaan** manned mission to outer space would be launched by **December 2021**.

- Under Gaganyaan project, India is planning to send three astronauts to outer space for seven days and bring them back ISRO is conceiving a mission **to Venus by 2023**.

### ➤ Gaganyaan manned mission to outer space by ISRO

- **ISRO Chairman Dr. K Sivan stated** that the organisation is well prepared to meet the targets of launching Gaganyaan manned mission to outer space by **December 2021**.
- S332 launches are planned this year. Important among them are Chandrayaan -2 mission to the moon in mid-April. GSAT-20 Satellite for high bandwidth connectivity to be launched in September-October.

### ➤ Atomic number of Iridium?

- The **SpaceX Falcon 9 launched 10** voice and data **satellites** for **Iridium Communications satellite**, which is an alternative for entire fleet with a new generation of orbiters. The constellation's name comes from the chemical element Iridium, which has **atomic number 77**.
- The satellites were launched into orbit on board Falcon 9 rocket from the Vandenberg Air Force station in California

### ➤ Road safety robot inducted by The Chennai Traffic Police

- The Chennai Traffic Police inducted a road safety robot into its fold. **Named ROADEO**, the robot will make the pedestrians, especially children; feel safe while crossing the roads.
- It will also ease the work of traffic police, as these robots can be integrated with the traffic signals, as well as can be operated manually, through a Bluetooth app.

### ➤ Albumin can be a better indicator of diabetes

- Scientists at the **National Chemical Laboratory, Pune** suggested that albumin can be a better indicator of diabetes.
- This can be achieved based on measurements of levels of free albumin and albumin attached to glucose molecules in the blood. These albumin levels in blood influence glycation of haemoglobin which further helps in diagnosis of diabetes.

### ➤ SpaceX-CRS-16 Dragon

- The SpaceX-CRS-16 Dragon cargo craft departed from the International Space Station and making a remark as the first night splashdown and recovered the Dragon vehicle. SpaceX-CRS-16 Dragon transported more than **2,500 kilograms (5,600 pounds)** of cargo to the space station and orbited Earth for five weeks.
- SpaceX-CRS-16 Dragon is a **Commercial Resupply Service mission** to the International Space Station launched by NASA.

### ➤ World's first television channel dedicated to human rights

- World's **first** television channel dedicated to **human rights** was launched in **London** by the **International Observatory of Human Rights (IOHR)**. It would be a web-based channel would bring human rights issues to audiences in over **20** countries across **Europe, Latin America and the Middle East**.
- Initially the programmes would be broadcasted in English but other languages including Farsi, Turkish, Arabic and Russian would be inducted in the future.

### ➤ Epsilon – 4 rocket launched by Japan

- **Japan** launched the **Epsilon – 4 rocket** carrying **7 satellites** developed by private sector companies and Universities from the **Uchinoura Space Center** in Kagoshima.
- The cost of launch which is roughly USD 50 million was borne by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) to promote and encourage space exploration by private sector in Japan.

### ➤ LCH

- **Light combat helicopter (LCH)**, has successfully **carried out air-to-air missile** firing on a moving aerial target at the integrated test range in **Chandipur on Odisha coast**.
- This **LCH is first in the country**, which is designed and developed by Rotary Wing Research & Design Centre (RWRDC), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

### ➤ Fast Interceptor Craft (FIC) at Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu

- The **Indian Navy** inducted two - **Fast Interceptor Craft (FIC)** at **Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu**, to boost coastal security. The vessels were acquired for Sagar Prahari Bal, a unit of the Navy.
- The boats can carry a variety of armament from heavy machine guns to grenade launchers with the upper deck canopies bullet-proof.

### ➤ Epsilon – 4 rocket carrying 7 satellite

- **Japan** launched the **Epsilon – 4 rocket** carrying 7 satellites developed by private sector companies and Universities from the Uchinoura Space Center in **Kagoshima**.
- The Epsilon series was developed in a bid to put small satellites into orbit at a low cost.

### ➤ Delta 4 Heavy rocket carrying a U.S. spy satellite

- A powerful **Delta 4 Heavy rocket** carrying a **U.S. spy satellite** lifted off from California. The central core booster **Aerojet Rocket dyne RS-68A** engine continued fired until the upper stage single **RL10B-2** engine ignited to continue the climb to space.



- This was the second attempt after the launch was postponed because of a communication problem between the control center and the launch site.

### ➤ World Health Organization (WHO) recommended triple-drug therapy for lymphatic filariasis

- **Maharashtra** in collaboration with World Health Organization (**WHO**) -recommended triple-drug therapy for lymphatic filariasis to speed up elimination of the disease in **Nagpur**. This disease is transmitted through mosquitoes.
- Actor **Swapnil Joshi** is assigned as brand ambassador for this project.

### ➤ Arrow 3 Missile

- Israel successfully tested the Arrow 3 missile system from Central Israel, it is done in collaboration with American Missile Defense Agency.
- Arrow 3 is considered to be the next step in the defence system, which would help the Israel Military Force to attack their enemies from a greater distance and greater height.

### ➤ TUM

- Social media giant **Face book** announced that it will create an independent Institute for **Ethics in Artificial intelligence (AI)** with an initial investment of **\$7.5 million** over a period of five years.
- **Technical University of Munich (TUM)** in Germany will collaborate with this project which aims to explore fundamental issues affecting the use and impact of AI.

### ➤ Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LR-SAM) successfully

- Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully launched Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LR-SAM) jointly developed by DRDO and **Israel Aerospace Industries** from INS Chennai off the coast of Odisha.
- LR-SAM will improve air defence capabilities. It also had a system which includes a Multi-Functional Surveillance and Threat Alert Radar (MF-STAR) for detection, tracking and guidance of the missile.

### ➤ Roshni app launched in Chandigarh

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar**, has developed an app **Roshni** that would help the Visually Impaired to recognise currency notes.
- The app can recognise both old and new notes and gives audio information as to which note you are holding in your hands. This app was launched in **Chandigarh**.

**➤ NGRAM**

- India tested the new generation anti-radiation missile (NGRAM) which would destroy all the surveillance and radar systems. The missile is launched from Balasore.
- The Defence-Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has created this missile as a **surface to air** missile and is screened by **Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jet**.

**AWARDS****➤ Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award for the Women's Cricketer of the Year by the ICC**

- India Women Cricket team Vice-captain and Left-handed opener, **Smriti Mandhana** was adjudged „**Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award for the Women's Cricketer of the Year**„, as well as the „**Women's ODI Player of the Year**“ by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

**➤ National Nritya Shiromani award**

- US-based Kathak dancer **Anindita Neogy Anaam** will be honoured with the **National Nritya Shiromani award** for promoting the dance form across the world.
- This award of national repute has been given in the past to the outstanding Indian classical dance performers and musicians of India and abroad.

**➤ Shankar Vaidya Shree Award**

- A Dharwad-based paediatrician, **Dr. Rajan Deshpande**, received the **Shankar Vaidya Shree Award** at the **19th** anniversary of the **Dr. P.S. Shankar Pratishthan** in Kalaburagi, Karnataka.
- He was honoured for his exemplary work in children's healthcare for 40 years.

**➤ National Geospatial Award for Excellence - 2017**

- IIT Roorkee professor **Jayanta Kumar Ghosh** was facilitated with **the National Geospatial Award for Excellence -2017** (Life Time Achievement Award) by the **Indian Society for Remote Sensing** for his contribution towards the development of geospatial science and applications.
- The Indian Society for Remote Sensing is an organisation known in the area of space science, remote sensing and geo-spatial technology.

### ➤ **World Memory Championships held at Hong Kong**

- A 12-year-old Indian-origin student **Dhruv Manoj** from Singapore has bagged **two gold medals** at the **World Memory Championships** held in Hong Kong.
- Dhruv Manoj won in the “**names and faces**” and “**random words**” disciplines, beating 56 other contestants in the –kids category||.

### ➤ **Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja National Award for Lifetime Achievement in literature**

- **Manoj Das**, an eminent English and Odia Litterateur received the “**Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja National Award for Lifetime Achievement**” in literature during **53rd** Foundation day ceremony organized by the Berhampur University, Odisha.
- Manoj Sinha has been already honoured with Sahitya Akademi Award, Orissa. Sahitya Akademi award, Sarala Award, Sahitya Bharati Award and Padma Shri.

### ➤ **Indian Council for Child Welfare for receiving National Bravery Award**

- 15-year-old class IXth student, **Wahengbam Lamnganba Singh**, of Kumbi area in **Manipur**, has been selected by the **Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW)** for receiving **National Bravery Award**.

### ➤ **Central Board of Irrigation and Power Award-2019**

- The Water Resources Minister of Andhra Pradesh (AP), **Devineni Umamaheswar Rao** received the „**Central Board of Irrigation and Power Award-2019**” for better planning and construction of **Polavaram Irrigation Project** on the Godavari River.
- AP Water Resources Minister, Rao received the award in the category of –Best Implementation of Water Resources Project||.

### ➤ **13th Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism awards**

- Home Minister Shri **Rajnath singh** presented the prestigious 13th **Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism** awards to 29 winners in 18 categories across Print, Broad cast and purely digital to recognize the outstanding contributions of journalists in 2017 in **New Delhi**.

### ➤ **Lifetime achievement award**

- Veteran journalist **Dinu Randive** was conferred with **the lifetime achievement award** for his lifelong contributions in journalism, who started his journalistic career in 1956.
- He also participated in the freedom struggle, the Sanyukta Maharashtra movement and the Goa liberation movement.

➤ **National Conclave on Accomplishments and Way Forward for Textiles Sector**

- The Vice President of India, **Shri M Venkaiah Naidu** conferred awards on 17 persons for their outstanding contribution in different fields of textiles sector during the day long „**National Conclave on Accomplishments and Way Forward for Textiles Sector**“ in New Delhi.
- The conclave was a part of a two-day event, on **5th – 6th January 2019** in New Delhi, to highlight the achievements of the textiles sector. The event was inaugurated with a textiles fashion show “**Artisan Speak**” at Red Fort.

➤ **Bimal Roy Memorial and Film Society**

- The **Bimal Roy Memorial and Film Society** announced that it would honour veteran actors **Asha Parekh** and **Farooque Shaikhat** the event on **January 8, 2019**, commemorating **52nd** death anniversary of the renowned filmmaker.

➤ **2018 Confederation of African Football Player of the Year award**

- **Liverpool**’s **Mohamed Salah** was conferred with the **2018 Confederation of African Football Player of the Year award**, for the second time, in **Senegal**.
- Among other awardees, **Houston Dash** and South Africa forward **Thembi Kgatlana** was named **Women**’s **Player of the Year**.

➤ **Exhibitor of the Year Award**

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** pavilion received „**Exhibitor of the Year Award**“ at **106th Indian Science Congress** held at **Lovely Professional University (LPU)**, **Phagwara, Punjab**.

➤ **ICSI's Lifetime Achievement Award**

- Industrialist and **Godrej Group Chairman Adi Godrej** was conferred the **ICSI's Lifetime Achievement Award** for „**Translating Excellence in Corporate Governance into Reality**“ in **Mumbai**.
- The award instituted by **The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)**, was given at its golden jubilee celebrations.

➤ **Honorary rank of General of the Indian Army**

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** conferred the **honorary rank of General of the Indian Army** on **Purna Chandra Thapa**, the **Chief of the Army Staff of Nepalese Army**.
- The honour was given to him at a special Investiture Ceremony held at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.

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**Best Book of Fiction Written by a Woman Author**

- Writer Namita Gokhale was awarded in the ‘Best Book of Fiction Written by a Woman Author’ category at the inaugural edition of **Bhopal Literature and Art Festival (BLF)**. She has won the Sushila Devi Literature Award for her novel –Things to Leave Behind||.

➤ **Lifetime Achievement Award by the West Bengal Film Journalists Association (WBFJA)**

- National award-winning filmmaker **Buddhadeb Dasgupta** was conferred the **Lifetime Achievement Award**, in the name of **late Satyajit Ray**, by the **West Bengal Film Journalists Association (WBFJA)** in **Kolkata**.
- It was given in the third edition of the „**Cinemar Samabartan**“ ceremony.

➤ **Philip Kotler Presidential award**

- The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi**, received the first-ever Philip Kotler Presidential award, in **New Delhi**. This award is given in remembrance of works and contribution done by **Prof. Philip Kotler**, who is a well-known in the field of Marketing.
- The Award focuses on the triple P’s of the Nation: **People, Profit and Planet**. It will be offered annually to the leader of a Nation.

➤ **Franco-German Prize for Human Rights and the Rule of Law for 2018 in Beijing, China**

- Detained Chinese lawyer, **Mr Yu Wensheng** who is best known for suing the Beijing government over the city’s once chronic pollution, granted a human rights award by the **French and German** ambassadors to China at an event organised by the German embassy in Beijing.
- Yu Wensheng’s wife, **Madam Xu Yan**, received the **Franco-German Prize for Human Rights and the Rule of Law for 2018**, on his behalf.

➤ **Top –Global Thinkers 2019 ranking**

- Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries, **Mukesh Ambani** who is also the Richest Indian, has been featured in the Top “**Global Thinkers 2019**” ranking released by the prestigious **Foreign Policy publishing**.
- The Full list of ‘Global Thinkers 2019’ will be published on 22nd January 2019 at the 10th Anniversary of Global Thinkers listing.

➤ **seven highest peaks and volcanic summits across all continents**

- Software engineer and mountaineer **Satyarup Siddhanta**, hailing from Haridevpur in South Kolkata, became the **first Indian and youngest man** to climb the seven highest peaks and volcanic summits across all continents.
- This feat was attained after he conquered Antarctica's highest point, **Mount Sidley**.

➤ **Gandhi Peace Prize for 2018**

- **Yohei Sasakawa** was named to receive Gandhi Peace Prize for 2018, who is the Goodwill Ambassador of the **World Health Organization for Leprosy Elimination**. The award will be given to Yohei Sasakawa in recognition of his work towards the eradication of the disease in India and across the world.
- The award was instituted by the Government of India in 1995 during the commemoration of **125th Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**.

➤ **Recipient of the 2019 Japan Prize in the field of –Biological Production**

- The **Japan Prize Foundation** announced India born professor **Dr. Rattan Lal** as the recipient of the **2019 Japan Prize** in the field of "**Biological Production, Ecology**".
- **Dr. Yoshio Okamoto** was announced to be the recipient of the 2019 Japan Prize on of "**Materials and Production**" field.

➤ **Shaurya Award|| to students in the name of 71 state police force martyrs**

- Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar announced "**Shaurya Award**" to students in the **name of 71 state police force martyrs** who laid down their lives while maintaining law and order and protecting society since the formation of state in 1966.

➤ **Who has become the first Indian athlete to receive a nomination in the prestigious Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award?**

- Indian female **wrestler Vinesh Phogat**, who hails from **Haryana**, became the first Indian athlete to receive a nomination in the prestigious **Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award**.
- She was nominated due to her comeback after battling a long injury lay-off to win a gold medal at the **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and Jakarta Asian Games**.

➤ **prestigious Rosa Park Trailblazer award**

- An Indian-American **philanthropist and entrepreneur, Gurinder Singh Khalsa** (45), has been presented with the prestigious **Rosa Park Trailblazer award** for his campaign that forced US authorities change their policy towards headgear of the Sikh community.

➤ **Sheikh Saud International Prize for Materials Research**

- **Eminent Indian scientist C.N.R. Rao** of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru, has been conferred with the **first Sheikh Saud International Prize for Materials Research** by the Centre for Advanced Materials of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

➤ **16th Tata Mumbai Marathon**

- Six-time women's world boxing champion and Olympic medalist **M C Mary Kom** was named as the event ambassador for the 16th **Tata Mumbai Marathon** which will be held in **January 20, 2019**.
- It would be organized by **Procam International**.

➤ **world capital of architecture for 2020 by UNESCO**

- **The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** named **Rio de Janeiro**, a city in Brazil as the **World Capital of Architecture for 2020**.

➤ **Who was awarded the Sansad Ratna Award for his performance as a parliamentarian?**

- The **Bhartiya Janta Party** Lok Sabha Member from Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh, **Anurag Thakur** was presented the **Sansad Ratna Award** for his performance as a parliamentarian.

➤ **Woman's Voice Award' at the AKLF**

- **US-based Indian poet Ranjani Murali** received the **"Woman's Voice Award"** at the Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF). The award carries a cash prize of **Rs 1 lakh** apart from a citation.
- The objective of the award – **"Prabha Khaitan Women's Voice Award"** – is to recognise and encourage creative writing by women in India, to create a forum for their work and to support the publication of their writing.

➤ **Pudukkottai Jallikattu**

- Jallikattu' as a symbol of the **valour and courage of the Tamil people**. A grand –jallikattu|| (bull-taming) event held in **Pudukkottai** and this event entered the world record for the maximum number of bulls released into the sport arena.



- This event had the participation of **1,354 bulls and 424 tamers**.

### ➤ **Saraswati Samman 2017**

- The 27th edition of saraswati samman award ceremony was held in New Delhi. Eminent Gujarati poet **Sitanshu Yashaschandra** was awarded for his poetry collection, „**Vakhar**,“ published in 2009. The 27th edition was organised by **KK Birla** Foundation. 65
- The 26th Saraswati Samman, 2016 was given to Konkani language author **Mahabaleshwar Sail** for his novel „**Hawthan**“.

### ➤ **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar award for the year 2019**

- The government formed an annual award titled **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar**. This award is to be awarded every year on **23rd January**, the birth anniversary of **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose**.
- For the year 2019, **8th Battalion of National Disaster Response Force** located at **Ghaziabad** is selected for its work in disaster management.

### ➤ **\$25,000 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2018**

- „**No Presents Please**“, originally written in Kannada by noted author Jayant **Kaikini** and translated into English by **Tejaswini Niranjana**, was announced as the winner of the prestigious **\$25,000 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2018** at the **Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Meet in Kolkata**.

### ➤ **Best miniratna PSU**

- **Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)** has been awarded the **best miniratna PSU** in strategic performance (financial category) at the **Governance Now Sixth PSU awards**.
- The award, comprising of a trophy, was presented to NRL MD **S K Barua** by Member of Parliament **Manoj Tiwari** and veteran actress and social activist **Poonam Dhillon** at an award function held in New Delhi recently.

### ➤ **Pranab Mukherjee also known as**

- President Ram Nath Kovind announced the recipients of Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award, they are former president Pranab Mukherjee, social activist Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumously) and musician Dr Bhupen Hazarika (posthumously) in New Delhi.
- **Pranab Mukherjee** also known as **Pranab Da**, was the **13th President of India** and served from **2012 until 2017**.

### ➤ Tetra Pak India

- Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) awarded social impact award to **Tetra Pak India**, the world's leading packaging and processing solutions provider under the category „**Sustainable Environment category**”.

### ➤ Romain Rolland Book Prize for literary translation

- Romain Rolland Book Prize for literary translation** won by Tamil translation of Andrei Makine's „**La vie d'un homme inconnu**” (The Life of an Unknown Man) at the **Jaipur Literature Festival**.

### ➤ Republic Day Journalism Award 2019 from Assam government

- Assam government entitled the **Republic Day Journalism Award 2019** to veteran journalist and former editor **Dhirendra Nath Chakraborty**.

### ➤ 2019 Screen Actors Guild Awards

- Black Panther** , **Rami Malek** and **Glenn Close** were some of the biggest winners at the **2019 Screen Actors Guild Awards**. From television, **„This is Us**” won ensemble award for drama, while **„The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel**” won the comedy award.
- Rami Malek won for playing the iconic Queen front man Freddie Mercury in **„Bohemian Rhapsody**’ while Glenn Close took home the award for best actress for **„The Wife.**’

### ➤ Southern Railway bagged number one position for cleanliness in the country

- The Southern Railway bagged number one position for cleanliness in the country in the survey conducted by **Trains Cleanliness Survey conducted by IRCTC**.

### ➤ Best in Show’ at the New York Times Travel Show 2019

- India** received the **Award of Excellence** for **„Best in Show”** at the **New York Times Travel Show 2019**, the largest travel show in **North America**. India was honoured during the Closing Bell Ceremony at the New York Stock Exchange.
- The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India participated as the **„Presenting Partner”** in the New York Times Travel Show (**NYTTS 2019**) organised at Jacob K Javits Centre.

### ➤ DSC Prize for South Asian Literature for translated work

- Kannada poet and short story writer **Jayant Kaikini** was entitled as the winner of the **DSC Prize for South Asian Literature** for his translated work **“No Presents Please”**. **Jayant and translator Tejaswini Niranjana** received the award from eminent writer Ruskin Bond.

### ➤ Swasth Bharat Yatra

- Tamil Nadu was awarded the —Best State Overall|| for its active participation in the national campaign “**Swasth Bharat Yatra**”, which was organized from 16th October 2018 by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- The Key element of the Cyclothon was “**Eat Right India**” and the goal of the campaign was to aware the sensitive people about eating food and being healthy.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### ➤ Information Chief Commissioner by the Government of India

- The Government of India has appointed **Sudhir Bhargava**, an information commissioner in the Central Information Commission **as the new chief information commissioner**. The government has also **appointed four new information commissioners**.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has approved the appointment of former bureaucrats **Yashwardhan Kumar Sinha, Vanaja N Sarna, Neeraj Kumar Gupta and Suresh Chandra** as the new information commissioners.

### ➤ Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court

- Justice **Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair Radhakrishnan** was sworn in as the **Chief Justice** of the **Telangana High Court**.
- His oath was administered by Telangana and Andhra Pradesh **Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan**.

### ➤ Chairman of Railway Board

- **The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet** has approved the appointment of **V K Yadav as Railway Board chairman** on the superannuation of Ashwani Lohani on December 31. Before his posting to the coveted post, Yadav was serving as General Manager, South Central Railway.

### ➤ Brazil's 42nd president

- **Jair Bolsonaro** was sworn in as **Brazil's 42nd president**. Mr Bolsonaro, 63, won the presidential election by a wide margin against Fernando Haddad of the left-wing Workers' Party.

➤ **MD and CEO of the Axis bank**

- Private sector lender Axis Bank Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) **Shikha Sharma** retired from the services of the bank and **Amitabh Chaudhry** will be the new MD and CEO of the Axis bank from **1st January 2019**.

➤ **Secretary of Competition Commission of India (CCI)**

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) appointed **Pramod Kumar Singh** as its secretary. The Commission was established in 2003 to replace the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission.

➤ **Chief Justice of Pakistan**

- **Justice Asif Saeed Khosa** will take oath of his office a day after incumbent CJP **Justice Saqib Nisar** retires on January 17.
- Justice Khosa has been a senior Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan since 31 December 2016.

➤ **Secretary, Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals**

- **Chhabilendra Roul** has assumed the charge of Secretary, Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, and Government of India.

➤ **International Monetary Fund (IMF) as its 11th chief economist**

- Mysore-born Gita Gopinath joined **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** as its **11th** chief economist, thus becoming the **first woman** to occupy the top IMF post.
- She succeeded **Maurice (Maury) Obstfeld** who retired on December 31, 2018.

➤ **CBI Chief by the Supreme Court**

- The **Supreme Court**, as per orders penned by **Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi**, reinstated **CBI Director Alok Kumar Verma** without giving him any major policy decision making powers.
- This was done against the October 23 2018 decision which had earlier divested him of his powers completely as per the corruption charges brought against him.

➤ **New president of Global Solar Council (GSC)**

- The chairman of **National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI)**, Shri Pranav R Mehta, has taken over as the president of **Global Solar Council (GSC)** from January 1, 2019.
- He is dubbed as the **Solar Man of India**. He has been conferred with the „**Visionary Disruptor Award**“ by Solar Future, which he will be receiving on 15th January, 2019 at the sidelines of World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi.

➤ **New President of Venezuela**

- **Nicolas Maduro** was sworn in as **Venezuelan President** for the 2nd term for a new 6-year term. Venezuela is one of the world's largest oil producers and holds the presidency of oil cartel Opec until 2025.

➤ **Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**

- **Additional Director M. Nageswara Rao** took charge of the office of the **Central Bureau of Investigation** as the **Director**.
- The decision was taken by a 2-1 decision by a selection committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with its other two members being Leader of Congress Mallikarjun Kharge and Supreme Court judge A.K. Sikri.

• **Secretary General of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**

- According to an announcement by the **Personnel Ministry**, **The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** approved the appointment of senior bureaucrat **Jaideep Govind** as the **Secretary General, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**.

➤ **Chief Statistician of India who took oath as Member of UPSC**

- **Dr. T.C.A Anant**, former Chief Statistician of India & Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, took the Oath of Office and Secrecy as **Member, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**. Oath was administered by **Shri Arvind Saxena, Chairman, UPSC**.

➤ **Chief Executive Officer of International Cricket Council (ICC)**

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced the appointment of **Manu Sawhney** as its new **Chief Executive Officer**.

➤ **One month extension recently for the post of Finance Secretary**

- The government extended the service of **Finance Secretary Ajay Narayan Jha** by a month till February-end. He was to retire on January 31.

➤ **Chief Financial Officer of snapchat.**

- o The **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** of photo-messaging app **Snapchat**, **Tim Stone**, has called it quits after just eight months of being appointed at the post.
- o Stone will however continue to serve as Snapchat's CFO while the company searches for a replacement.

➤ **2 justice approved by Ram Nath Kovind for the elevation of Supreme Court**

- o **President Ram Nath Kovind** approved the elevation of **Justice Sanjiv Khanna** and **Justice Dinesh Maheshwari** to the Supreme Court.
- o The Chief Justice of India and the Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under clause (2) of **Article 124** of the Constitution.

➤ **Director General (Investigation) in the National Human Rights Commission**

- o The **Department of Personnel & Training**, Government of India has appointed Senior IPS Officer **Prabhat Singh** as Director General (Investigation) in the **National Human Rights Commission**.
- o The appointment of Mr. Singh came after the post of the Director General (Investigation) National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) fell vacant with the retirement of **Gurbachan Singh** (IPS 1984 batch) on 31 December 2018.

➤ **26th Chief Justice of Pakistan**

- o **Justice Asif Saeed Khosa** who is known for his habit of citing works of literature in his judgements took oath as the **26th** Chief Justice of **Pakistan** in a ceremony held at the President's House, Islamabad.

➤ **Prime Minister of Sweden for a second term**

- o Sweden ended a four-month political vacuum when lawmakers elected 61 years old Swedish Social Democratic Party's leader **Stefan Lofven** as the Prime Minister of Sweden for a **second term**.
- o Government is formed in **coalition** with the **Green Party** and in budget cooperation with **Center Party** and the Liberals.

➤ **Andry Rajoelina was recently sworn in as President**

- o **Andry Rajoelina** was sworn in as **President of Madagascar**. The oath-taking ceremony was attended by delegation from 35 countries and international organizations.

➤ **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)**

- o **Shri Indu Shekhar Jha** was appointed the member of **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)** and **Shri Lalchharlian Pachuau** was appointed as a member of **Joint Electricity Regulation Commission** for **Manipur and Mizoram** by **Power Ministry**.

➤ **Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia**

- o **Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh** has been appointed Regional Director for World Health Organization South-East Asia, for a **second five-year term**. Her second term of office will begin on

- o she is the **first woman** to become Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia Region

➤ **First Hindu woman civil judge in Pakistan**

- o **Suman Kumari** has become the **first Hindu woman** to have been appointed as a civil judge in Pakistan after passing an examination for induction of judicial officers. Kumari, who hails from Qambar-Shahdadt, will serve in her native district.

➤ **chairman in Kerala based private sector lender Federal Bank**

- o **Kerala** based private sector lender **Federal Bank** has appointed **Dilip Sadarangani** as the **part-time chairman**. The appointment of Sadarangani, who has been on the bank's board since **2013**, has been cleared by the Reserve Bank.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

➤ **World Braille Day celebrated on January 4**

- o United Nations observed the **first official World Braille Day** remembering the birth anniversary of **Louis Braille** who was the inventor of **Braille** for the people with visual disabilities.
- o World Braille day is observed annually on **4th January** to raise awareness on the importance of Braille for approximately **1.3 billion people living** with some form of distance or near vision impairment.

➤ **World Hindi Day is being observed on January 10**

- o **World Hindi Day** is celebrated on January 10 every year, marking the anniversary of **first World Hindi Conference** which was held in 1975. It was first observed on **January 10, 2006**.
- o The first World Hindi Conference was inaugurated by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi.

➤ **National Youth Day-January 12**

- o The nation celebrated the **National Youth Day** (also known as **Yuva Diwas**) to honour the birthday of **Swami Vivekananda**, one of India's greatest spiritual and social leaders who had strong faith in the power of youth.
- o National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 is organised on the theme of "**Be The Voice of New India**" and "**Find solutions and contribute to policy**".



➤ **Subhas Chandra Bose 122nd birth anniversary**

- o 23rd January 2019, 122nd Birth Anniversary of the great Freedom Fighter Subhas Chandra Bose was celebrated all over the India. Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Subhash Chandra Bose Museum** to mark the **122nd Birth anniversary** of freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose at **Red Fort** in Delhi.
- o Prime Minister, Narendra Modi also inaugurated two more museums – “**The Yaad-e-Jallian Museum**” and –**1857 War of Independence Museum**”.

➤ **National Girl Child Day-24th January**

- o The nation celebrated National Girl Child Day 2019 through various programmes including awareness campaign on save girl child, child sex ratios and creating a healthy and safe environment for a girl child throughout the country.
- o The theme for National Girl Child Day 2019 is “**Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow**”.

➤ **National Voters Day-25th January**

- o India is celebrating **9th National Voters Day on 25th January 2019** for enhanced participation of citizens in the electoral process. The main purpose of celebrating National Voters Day is to encourage, facilitate and maximize the enrollment, especially for the new voters. The National Voters Day was first celebrated on **25th January 2011**.
- o The **theme** for this years **National Voters” Day** is „**Accessible Elections**” to spread awareness among voters regarding effective participation in the electoral process.

➤ **International Customs Day- January 26**

- o International Customs Day (ICD) is celebrating on the **26th January** every year by the Custom Organization, to commemorate the first Conference of **World Customs Organizations**.
- o This year international Customs day is celebrated with a **slogan “SMART borders for seamless Trade, Travel and Transport.”**

➤ **Data Protection Day-January 28**

- o Data Protection Day also known as Data Privacy Day was observed in some parts of the world to raise awareness and promote privacy and data protection. It is an annual event which was observed for the first time on 28th January 2007 by Council of Europe as European Data Protection Day.
- o The Day is currently observed in the 47 European Countries, United States, Israel and Canada.

## ECONOMY

### ➤ Growth Outlook for 2019 report

- o In its report titled „**Growth Outlook for 2019**“, **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** stated that India will remain the fastest growing major economy with GDP growth estimated to be **7.5% in FY19**.

### ➤ GAFA tax

- o **France** introduced a new “**GAFA tax**” named after the large internet and technology companies **Google, Apple, Facebook** and **Amazon** to ensure the global giants pay a fair share of taxes on their massive businesses in Europe.

### ➤ Chinese synthetic rubber fluoroelastomers’ used in automobile and other industries

- o The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India, is mulling to impose **anti-dumping duty** for 18 months on a Chinese synthetic rubber „**fluoroelastomers**” used in automobile and other industries in order to minimize the impact of dumped imports.

### ➤ IMCECA

- o The **ministry of finance** announced that the government has cut import duties on **crude and refined palm oil** from **Southeast Asian countries or ASEAN** countries.
- o This move was taken under the **India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement** and Malaysia under the **India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (IMCECA)**.

### ➤ SEBI chairman

- o The **Reserve Bank** set up an expert committee under former SEBI chairman **U K Sinha** to suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSME sector.
- o The **eight-member committee** will also examine the factors affecting the timely and adequate availability of finance to the sector.

### ➤ Regional Rural Banks are amalgamated into a single RRB

- o The government has amalgamated three Regional Rural Banks — Punjab Gramin Bank, Malwa Gramin Bank and Sutelej Gramin Bank — into a single RRB with effect from January

### ➤ Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar

- o The **Group of States’ Finance Ministers (GoFM)** led by **Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Sushil Kumar Modi** approved levy of **1% „calamity cess”** by **Kerala** for a period of **two** years to fund

rehabilitation work in the state of Kerala. It will recommend the same to the **GST council meeting** which will be held in **January 10, 2019**.

### ➤ Central Statistics Office (CSO)

- o **Central Statistics Office (CSO)** stated that the Indian economy is expected to grow at **7.2 per cent in 2018-19**, a tad higher from **6.7 per cent** in the previous fiscal, mainly due to improvement in the performance of agriculture and manufacturing sectors
- o The increase is being expected with the improvement in performance of agriculture and manufacturing sectors.

### ➤ Aadhaar architect

- o The **Reserve Bank of India** constituted a 5-member high-level committee **under Aadhaar architect Nandan Nilekani** to suggest measures to strengthen the **safety and security of digital payments in the country**.
- o The decision aims to encourage **digitisation of payments and enhance financial inclusion through digitisation**.

### ➤ World Bank projected India' GDP

- o **World Bank** projected India' GDP, expected to grow at **7.3% in the fiscal year 2018-19, and 7.5%** in the following two years.
- o The Bank said India will continue to be the fastest growing major economy in the world. In India, the growth has accelerated, driven by an upswing in consumption, and investment growth has firmed as the effects of temporary factors wane, the World Bank said in its latest report.

### ➤ Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs

- o The **Union Road Minister NitinGadkari**, on successful meeting with Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs **Mohammad Javad Zarif**, announced that **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved **Iran"s Pasargad Bank** to open branches in **Mumbai** for easing trade related transactions.

### ➤ SEBI has set up an advisory committee

- o **Market regulator SEBI has set up an advisory committee** that will help and **analyse the new methods of policy making for the development of capital market**. The committee formed will be **headed by Sankar De**.
- o This committee is formed with an objective to define the objective of creating the policy for the development of the capital market and for as bridge between the analytical research to formation of the policy.

### ➤ Tata Steel plant at IJmuiden in the Netherlands

- o The **World Economic Forum** announced that the **Tata Steel** plant at **IJmuiden** in the **Netherlands** has been recognized as **“Manufacturing Lighthouses”** – a distinction awarded to manufacturing facilities which are seen as leaders in technologies of the **„Fourth Industrial Revolution”**

### ➤ FICCI

- o The global consulting firm **PwC** and industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (**FICCI**) held a new survey of manufacturers and released a report titled **“The India Manufacturing Barometer 2019”**.
- The report projected that India’s economy is expected to grow anywhere between **7.3 – 7.7 per cent**.

### ➤ 32nd Meeting of GST Council

- o **The 32nd Meeting of GST Council was concluded in New Delhi**. The Limit of annual turnover for composition scheme increased to 1.5 crore rupees effective from April 1, 2019. The Council has decided to **increase the GST registration threshold limit to 40 lakh rupees from 20 lakh**.

### ➤ Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary

- o The **National Wildlife Board** after receiving recommendations from the state **Wildlife Board**, approved extraction of natural gas from **Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary** by state-owned **ONGC Tripura Asset**.
- o Under the project, **10-12 gas** bearing wells had been discovered by **ONGC Tripura Asset** for extraction of **natural gas** from Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Belonia subdivision of Gomati district, **Tripura**.

### ➤ Consumer price index (combined) reduced to an 18-month low

- o According to an official release by **Central Statistics Office (CSO)**, citing cooling food and fuel prices as the reasons, it stated that **wholesale and retail inflation** reduced to a multi month low with **CPI** falling to an **18-month low in December, 2018**.
- o India’s headline **inflation** rate based on the **consumer price index** (combined) reduced to an 18-month low of **2.19%** in December, down from 2.33% in November, 2018. It was 5.21% in December 2017.

### ➤ Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank),recapitalisation bonds

- o The Union Cabinet approved capital infusion of **Rs. 6,000 crore in Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank)** through recapitalisation bonds to boost the bank’s capacity in export financing.

➤ **Growth rate of 7.2% in the current financial year estimated**

- o A Fitch group company **India ratings and research** estimated that India's GDP growth to be a tad higher at **7.5%** in financial year **2019-20**. Earlier it was **7.2%** during fiscal year **2018-19**.
- o The economy seen a growth rate of **7.2%** in the current financial year against **6.7%** in the previous year estimated by Central Statistics Office (CSO).

➤ **PMRPY**

- o **Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) has crossed the milestone of 1 crore beneficiaries as on January 14, 2019**, according to a release by Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- o PMRPY is the flagship scheme of the Government for employment generation. PMRPY was announced on 7th August, 2016 and is being implemented by Ministry of Labour & Employment through the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO).

➤ **IBBI**

- o Former Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), U.K. Sinha will head an 11-member working group constituted by **the Insolvency and Bankruptcy board of India (IBBI)** to study the concept of „**Group Insolvency**“ and suggest a suitable framework.

➤ **First lithium Ion battery plant in India**

- o Government announced that **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and Libcoin** are in dialogue to form a world class consortium to initially build the first lithium Ion battery plant in India. This project will bring energy independence by replacing oil imports with abundant renewable energy sources.
- o The aim of the project is to create integrated manufacturing ecosystem resulting in self-reliance and lower cost.

➤ **International Automotive Technology 2019**

- o Government has taken decision to make **Euro 6** Emission standards necessary for the initial launch of vehicles from **1 April 2020**. Union Minister for Transport **Nitin Gadkari** made the announcement while addressing **Symposium of International Automotive Technology 2019 in Pune**.

➤ **Global Talent Competitive Index 2019 ranking**

- o **INSEAD business school** in partnership with **Tata Communications** and **Adecco Group** released the 6th edition of **Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) 2019** which stated that India has moved up one position to rank **80th** on the Global Talent Competitive Index 2019 ranking.

- o The top 5 countries in the index included **Switzerland** followed by Singapore, the US, Norway and Denmark.

### ➤ Most attractive investment market for global CEOs

- o **India** became 4th most attractive investment market for global **CEOs as per PwC Survey** conducted over more than 1300 CEOs in 91 countries. The report was released on the first day of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting held in Davos, Switzerland.

### ➤ CRISIL

- o As per a report published by CRISIL (Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited), **Bihar** has been ranked the Top State in terms of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) by clocking a growth rate of **11.3 per cent** in financial year 2017-2018.

### ➤ World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report

- o The United Nations released **the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report which projected India's gross domestic product (GDP)** to grow at **7.4 percent** during **2018-19** and improve to **7.6 per cent** in the next fiscal.
- o Besides the report projected that the gross domestic product (**GDP**) of India in **2020-21** will grow at **7.4 per cent**.

### ➤ Aviation Turbine Fuels (ATF)

- o The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** in collaboration with **Indian Air Force (IA F)** released a new standard for **Aviation Turbine Fuels (ATF)** which can be used as bio-jet fuel on all military and civilian aircraft.

### ➤ Global growth is expected to remain in 2019 and 2020

- o **Global growth is expected to remain at 3 per cent in 2019 and 2020**, however, the steady pace of expansion in the global economy masks an increase in downside risks that could potentially exacerbate development challenges in many parts of the world, according to the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2019.

### ➤ India's gross domestic product (GDP) to expand by 7.4 per cent in 2020-21

- o India's economy is expected to grow at **7.4 per cent** during 2018-19 and improve to **7.6 per cent in the next fiscal**, said a UN report.
- o The United Nations' **World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2019** report also expects India's gross domestic product (GDP) to expand by **7.4 per cent in 2020-21**.

### ➤ General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) readiness index

- o The report released by **CISCO** on **2019 Data Privacy Benchmark Study** ranked India in 6th position in **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** readiness index.
- o It also stated that organizations that invested to meet GDPR norms experienced shorter delays in selling to existing customers.

### ➤ EAC-PM

- o **Economic Advisory Council of Prime Minister (EAC-PM)** headed by **NITI Aayog Member Bibek Debroy** said in a report that India will continue to grow in the **7 to 7.5 per cent range** in the next few years despite global and structural challenges.

### ➤ Japan as world's second largest steel producing country

- o **India has replaced Japan as world's second largest steel producing country**, while **China is the largest producer** of crude steel accounting for more than 51 per cent of production, according to **World Steel Association (worldsteel)**.
- o **World Steel Association (worldsteel)** is one of the industry associations in the world.

### ➤ Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has increased in 2017-18

- o **Reserve Bank of India** released a data on "**Census on Foreign Liabilities and Assets of Indian Direct Investment Companies, 2017-18**" which shows that the **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** has been increased by 18 per cent to Rs. 28.25 lakh crore.
- o **Mauritius** is the largest source of FDI in India (19.7%) followed by United States of America, United Kingdom, Singapore and Japan.

## **ECONOMY IN MAINS PERSPECTIVE**

### ➤ INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE

#### **Why in News?**

The Supreme Court recently upheld the constitutionality of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

#### **More on the judgement**

- The petitioners against IBC had argued that in the event of liquidation of the company or its sale, the **dues of operational creditors rank below those of financial creditors**, which was violative of the Article 14 of the constitution.
- However, SC said that if an intelligible differentiation



can be established between two classes of creditors, **then legislation is not violative of Article 14**. The repayment of financial debts infuses capital into the economy and banks & financial institutions are able to further lend money to other entrepreneurs. Thus, relative importance of financial creditors is more vis-a-vis operational creditors.

- Further, SC said that deciding the threshold to allow withdrawal of insolvency case pertains to the domain of legislature. Moreover, the Act already contains provisions to set aside arbitrary decisions of CoC through NCLT/NCLAT.

## **BOOKS**

### ➤ **“Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From”**

- o The book titled **“Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From”** has been authored by journalist **Tony Joseph**, which unravels our history using the results of genetics and other research.
- o According to book, the Indian population is a result of four major migrations, including that of the Aryans, into the country in prehistoric times.

### ➤ **Second book of Sanjay Khan**

- o On the occasion of his 78th birthday, veteran actor-producer **Sanjay Khan** announced his second book, **„Assalamalaikum Watan”**.
- o He is the recipient of the ‘National Citizen Award’ twice, the ‘Rajiv Gandhi Award for Excellence’ and the ‘Gem of India Award for Excellence’ among many other honours.

### ➤ **Manohar Manoj’s book**

- o Vice-Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Harivansh Narayan Singh launched **Manohar Manoj’s book “A Crusade against corruption”**.
- o Manoj has written this book after massive research and deep observations on the subject during the last 15 years and claimed that this is a kind of –Encyclopedic Snapshots on Corruption in India

### ➤ **Universal Brotherhood Through Yoga’**

- o Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** launched the book **„Universal Brotherhood Through Yoga”** in New Delhi.
- o The book is compiled by **Bharatiya Sanskrit Pitham**.

### ➤ **Indian poet-diplomat Abhay Kumar**

- o A new anthology titled **„New Brazilian Poems”**, translated and edited by Indian poet-diplomat **Abhay Kumar** was launched at the National Association of Writers of Brazil.
- o He was also honoured with the **SAARC Literary Award 2013** for his contribution to contemporary South Asian Poetry.