

## **Republic Day 2018**

India is celebrating its 69<sup>th</sup> Republic Day this year. Republic day in India is celebrated every year on 26th of January to honour the Constitution of India as it came into force on the same day in the year 1950.

In a first, the Republic Day celebrations will have 10 chief guests. The heads the ASEAN leaders from Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Brunei – will be hosted in this year's celebrations. The significance of the ASEAN leaders attending the event is that ASEAN completes 50 years of formation and that India completes 25 years of its partnership with the grouping.

## **Why January 26th?**

The Constitution came into effect on January 26, 1950, a date specially chosen to coincide with the anniversary of 'Purna Swaraj Diwas'. January 26, 1930 was marked as 'Purna Swaraj Diwas', or the day the nation would attain complete freedom from its colonisers by the Congress.

The members of the drafting committee felt that the birth of the constitution should be observed on a day that held some significance in their fight for independence. When India was ultimately granted freedom by the British in 1947, but on August 15 and not January 26, the date was instead assigned to celebrating India's Republic Day.

This was the day the Indian Independence Act was consequently repealed and India was established as a democratic republic, no longer a dominion of the British Crown.

## **Zojila Tunnel Project**

- An MoU was signed between National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) and M/S IL&FS Transportation Networks Ltd for construction of the Zojila Tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir
- The main objective of the tunnel is to provide all weather connectivity to strategically important Leh region in Jammu and Kashmir
- Zoji La is a high mountain pass in Jammu and Kashmir, India,
- The pass is located on the Indian National Highway 1D between Srinagar and Leh in the western section of the Himalayan mountain range.
- Zojila tunnel will be the longest bi-directional tunnel in Asia.

### **Padma awards:**

This year the President of India has approved conferment of 85 Padma Awards including two duo cases. The list comprises 3 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 73 Padma Shri Awards.

### **About Padma Awards:**

Padma Awards – one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. They were instituted in the year 1954. The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.

### **Categories:**

- Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service;( it is a second degree honour).
- Padma Bhushan is awarded for distinguished service of high order. (it is a third degree honour).
- Padma Shri is awarded for distinguished service in any field. (it is a fourth degree honour).

The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year. The award is normally not conferred posthumously. However, in highly deserving cases, the Government could consider giving an award posthumously if the demise of the person proposed to be honoured has been recent, say within a period of one year preceding the Republic Day on which it is proposed to announce the award.

### **Rotavac**

- Bharat Biotech's diarrhea vaccine ROTAVAC gets WHO pre-qualification
- The WHO pre-qualification paves the way for health and humanitarian organizations such as UNICEF to procure it for public health vaccination programs across the world.
- Rotavirus is the most common cause of severe diarrhea and kills more than 200,000 children every year.
- ROTAVC is also included in the Universal Immunization Program

### **Sea Turtles in India**

- There are five species of seas turtles in Indian waters — Leatherback, Loggerhead, Hawksbill, Green and Olive Ridley.
- IUCN Status of these turtles are

1. Hawksbill- Critically endangered
  2. Green turtle- Endangered
  3. Leatherback- Vulnerable
  4. Loggerhead- Vulnerable
  5. Olive Ridley- Vulnerable
- Mostly these turtles are found in the eastern coast of the Country.
  - Often turtle are confused with tortoises. The major difference between the tortoise and sea turtles is that tortoises dwell on land, while turtles live in the water for some or nearly all of the time.

### **Mount Mayon**

- It is an active stratovolcano in the Philippines region
- Stratovolcano , also known as a composite volcano, is a conical volcano built up by many layers of hardened lava, tephra, pumice, and volcanic ash
- The volcano is the centre piece of the ALBAY biosphere reserve and Natural Park on its own.
- Mount Mayon lies in Pacific ring of fire region, major area in the basin of the Pacific Ocean where a large number of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur

### **Mission Innovation**

- The initiative was launched in the Cop21 UNFCCC in 2015
- India is member nation of the global initiative
- The objectives of initiative are,
  1. To accelerate public and private clean energy innovation
  2. To address climate change,
  3. Make clean energy affordable to consumers, and
  4. Create green jobs and commercial opportunities
- It will help in achieving India's INDC of increasing the share of clean and renewable energy in the energy basket

### **Delhi Declaration**

Delhi declaration was adopted at the recently concluded ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit. ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit was held to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of sectoral dialogue between two sides.

### Highlights of the Delhi declaration:

The Declaration supports a common approach to counter terrorism and sought a “comprehensive approach to **combat terrorism** through close cooperation by disrupting and countering terrorists, terrorist groups and networks, including by countering cross border movement of terrorists and foreign terrorist fighters and misuse of Internet including social media by terror entities.”

The declaration urges countries to strengthen **cooperation and collaboration** in combating other transnational crimes, including people **smuggling, trafficking in persons, illicit drug trafficking, cybercrime, and piracy and armed robbery against ships.**

The Delhi Declaration also reaffirmed “the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, stability, maritime safety and security, freedom of navigation and overflight in the region, and other lawful uses of the seas and unimpeded lawful maritime commerce and to promote peaceful resolutions of disputes, in accordance with UNCLO”.

### Background:

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

At present there are 10 members namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The motto of ASEAN is “One Vision, One Identity, One Community”.

Source: PIB, the Hindu, Economic times,