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JANUARY - 2019



- ✓ 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019 Inaugurated in Goa
- ✓ First fort bend county judge
- ✓ Aparna kumar First female IPS to reach the south pole
- ✓ India to build new vertical bridge to replace pamban bridge
- ✓ Novak Djokovic and Simona Halep were named top
- ✓ Chennai's Gukesh Crowned India's Youngest Grandmaster
- ✓ Cyclonic Storm 'PABUK' over Andaman Sea
- ✓ Nasa's probe discovers a new planet

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My Dear Aspirants,

Greetings to all of you! "What we think we become" said Gautama Buddha. We all have dreams. To turn dreams into reality it takes a lot of determination, dedication, self discipline and hard work.

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Wishing You All The Very Best !!

M. SHUNMUGAM
DIRECTOR
Vetrii IAS Study Circle.

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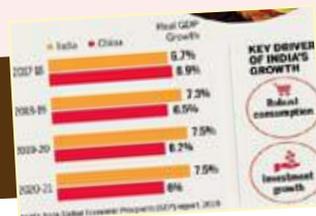
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1. History



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Jan 1

DRDO Day

- The DRDO has made the country self-reliant in areas of missiles, radars, sonars and torpedoes and many other systems.



Aim

- The Organisation has been working over the years to develop state of the art weapon system for the country's armed forces.

Jan 4

World Braille Day

- To raise awareness on the importance of Braille for approximately 1.3 billion people living with some form of distance or near vision impairment.

Aim

- Louis Braille was born on **4th January 1809** in France and he lost his vision at the age of 3.

Jan 9

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Day or Non Resident Day

- The day is celebrated, marks the contribution of **overseas Indian community in the development of India.**



AIM

- To strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots.
- On 9th January 2019, Mahatma Gandhi came to India from South Africa and became the greatest Pravasi who led India's freedom Struggle.

Jan 10**World Hindi Day**

- Marking the anniversary of first **World Hindi Conference** which was held in 1975 and inaugurated by the prime minister **Indira Gandhi**.

celebrated as 26th Army Air Defence Day

- A wreath Laying Ceremony was held at the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate, New Delhi.
- The Corps of Army Air Defence is the youngest arm of Indian Army.

Army Air Defence Corps:

- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Motto: "Akashe Shatrun Jahi" (Kill the Enemy in the Sky).

Jan 12**National Youth Day**

- In **1984**, Indian Government first declared to celebrate the birthday of Swami Vivekananda i.e. 12 January as National Youth Day.

AIM

- Since from **1985**, it is celebrated as the National Youth Day all over the country.
- The main aim of the Government is to make better future for the country by motivating the youth in the way of their life and ideas of Swami Vivekananda.

Jan 13**352nd Prakash Utsav of Guru Gobind Singh celebrate**

- The **352nd** birth anniversary of the **10th Sikh** Guru, **Guru Govind Singh ji**, was celebrated as **Prakash utsav** at **Patna Sahib**, in **Bihar**, the birth place of Guruji.

AIM

1. The main function was organised at **Takhat Sri Harmandir Sahib Gurdwara**, Patna Sahib.
2. Guru Govind Singh ji was the creator of **Khalsa Panth**.
3. The **10th Sikh Guru** was a spiritual leader, philosopher, poet and master warrior.

Jan 14

Armed Forces Veterans Day

- The main motive behind this celebration is to honour the ex-servicemen and resolve the problems faced by them after their retirement.
- **69th Army day is to be celebrated on January 15, 2019.**



AIM :

- The main celebration in **Delhi** took place at New Delhi. Minister of State (Defence) **Dr Subhash Bhambre** inaugurated the main event.
- This Day is commemorated in the memory of first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces **Field Marshal K M Cariappa** becoming a veteran in 1953. To mark the occasion, veteran rallies will be held country wide at Armed Forces stations.

Jan 15

2019 celebrated as 71st Army Day

- An annual parade was held at the **Carriappa Parade Ground in New Delhi** to celebrate the 71st anniversary of **the Indian Army Day**.

AIM :

1. **January 15** is celebrated as the Indian Army Day to commemorate our soldiers for their bravery and sacrifice.
2. This day was constituted by **Field Marshall KM Cariappa** who took over as the **first Indian Army chief in 1949**.

Jan 21

Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura celebrating Statehood day

- Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura are celebrating their statehood day. It is their **42nd statehood day**.
- Tripura is the **second** largest rubber producer after Kerala.
- **Important Things about the states:**

States	Capital	Chief minister	Governor
Meghalaya	Shillong	DD Lapang	Tathagata Roy
Manipur	Impal	N. Biren Singh	Najma Heptulla
Tripura	Agartala	Biplab Kumar Deb	Kaptan singh Solanki

Keys points to be noted :

- In the **year 1972**, all the three states became full-fledged states under the **North Eastern Region (Reorganisation) Act, 1971**.
- The erstwhile princely states of Tripura and Manipur were merged with India in **1949 and became full-fledged states in 1972**.
- Meghalaya was a part of Assam before it was carved out as a full-fledged state under the **North Eastern Region (Re-Organisation) Act, 1971**.

Jan 23**Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Birth Anniversary**

- 122nd Birth Anniversary of the great Freedom Fighter Subhas Chandra Bose was celebrated all over India.

Key Points : Subash Chandra Bose was a member of the Indian National Congress and later he formed Indian National Army also known as **Azad Hind Fauz**.

- Subhas Chandra Bose popularly known as **Netaji was born on 23rd January 1897 and died on 18th August 1945**.
- Recently 3 islands of Andaman and Nicobar – Ross Island, Neil Island and Havelock Island has been named as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep, Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to mark the 75th anniversary of raising of the Indian National Flag by Subhas Chandra Bose.

Jan 24**National Girl Child Day**

- Theme 2019- **“Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow”**

AIM :

- **Women and Child Development Ministry** celebrated the **National Girl Child Day 2019** at Pravasi Bharti Kendra, New Delhi. Observed the anniversary of **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme**.

International Day of Education: 24 January

- The **United Nations General Assembly** adopted with consensus a resolution proclaiming **24th January as International Day of Education**, in celebration of the role of education for peace and development.

1.2 PROFILE OF STATES

HOME MINISTRY APPROVED UP'S PROPOSAL OF RENAMING ALLAHABAD AS PRAYAGRAJ

- Ahead of the 'Kumbh Mela 2019', the Union Home Ministry (MHA) approved the Uttar Pradesh government's proposal to rename Allahabad as Prayagraj.
- MHA had earlier approved the renaming of the British-era railway station Robertsgang as Sonhadra, Farah Town railway station near Mathura and iconic Mughalsarai junction after Deen Dayal Upadhyay — both in Uttar Pradesh.



Other State profile :

- The Centre had also approved the renaming of Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in Mumbai as Chhatrapati Shivaji 'Maharaj' International Airport, earlier.
- The Tripura government also got Centre's approval to change the name of Agartala Airport as Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore, the erstwhile ruler of the state.

1.3 DEFENCE

CENTRE BANS KHALISTAN LIBERATION FORCE

- The Khalistan movement in Punjab, the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) has been banned under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Khalistan Movement:

- The Khalistan movement is a Sikh separatist movement, which seeks to create a separate country called Khalistan ("The Land of the Pure") in the Punjab region of South Asia to serve as a homeland for Sikhs.
- The territorial definition of the proposed country Khalistan consists of the current Punjab, India.

- Founded by Aroor Singh, the outfit had been active in promoting secessionist activities till 1994.
- It was subsequently revived by Harminder Singh Mintoo who died of cardiac arrest in April 2018 in Patiala Central Jail where he was lodged.

INDIA-MYANMAR BILATERAL ARMY EXERCISE, IMBEX 2018 - 19 HELD IN CHANDIMANDIR

- India-Myanmar bilateral army exercise, **IMBEX** had begun at Chandimandir, headquarters of the Western Command in Chandigarh.
 1. It is the **second edition** of the IMBEX EXERCISE.
 2. The motive of IMBEX 2018-19 is to train the Myanmar delegation for participation in United Nations peace keeping operations under the UN flag.

INDIA-MYANMAR JOINT TRAINING EXERCISE BEGINS IN CHANDIMANDIR

- Second edition of the India-Myanmar bilateral army exercise, **IMBEX 2018-19**, commenced at **Chandimandir Military Station**, that houses the headquarters of the Western Command, Chandigarh.
- The aim of this joint training programme, spread over six days, is to train the Myanmar delegation for participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations under the UN flag.

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN LAUNCHED TAMIL NADU DEFENCE INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a series of projects as a part of the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor in **Tiruchirppalli**.
- This is considered to be the second corridor succeeding the one launched in **Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh**.



WOMEN TO GET 20% JOBS IN MILITARY POLICE

- The Union Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced the decision to induct **women in Personnel Below Office Rank, PBOR, role in Corps of Military Police**.
- The women will be inducted in a graded manner to eventually comprise 20% of total Corps of Military Police. Accordingly, the Army chalked out induction of approximately 800 women in military police with a yearly intake of 52 personnel per year.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN MILITARY POLICE For the following roles:

- Investigation of offences such as rape, molestation, thefts etc.
- Military operations of nature where Army needs assistance from police organisations.
- Assisting civil police/administration for evacuation in forward villages during hostilities.
- Crowd control of refugees comprising women and children.
- Searching/Frisking of women during cordon & search operations/check posts.
- Ceremonial and Policing Duties: Maintaining military discipline.
- Manning the Prisoner of War Camps.

INDIAN NAVY COORDINATES LARGEST EVER COASTAL DEFENCE EXERCISE 10 YEARS AFTER “26/11”

- **Indian Navy** commenced largest ever coastal defence exercise **SEA VIGIL** in Indian Coast. It covered 7516.6km Indian Coastline and **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** of India.

'SEA VIGIL' FOR COASTAL SECURITY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Exercise being undertaken along the entire 7516.6km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aims to comprehensively and holistically validate the efficacy of the measures taken for coastal defence since 26/11 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It will provide a realistic assessment of our strengths and weaknesses 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mock drills and simulation of terror attacks will be conducted on Wednesday 	

Key Points :

- The exercise is conducted in collaboration with Ministry of Defence, Home Affairs, Shipping, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Fisheries, Customs, State Governments and other agencies of Centre and States.
- The aim of the Exercise Sea Vigil is to validate the effectiveness of measures taken since terror attack in Mumbai on 26/11.
- It tests the country's preparation to prevent any attempt to carry out attack or infiltration through sea route.
- Sea Vigil Exercise was a tri service exercise **TROPEX (Theatre-level Readiness Operational Exercise)** which is conducted by Indian Navy once in 2 years.

IAFTX 2019: INDIA AFRICA FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE HELD IN PUNE

- 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.

1.4 SUMMIT & CONFERENCE

HO DG PRAISES AYUSHMAN BHARAT SCHEME

- Director General of **World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** has expressed happiness that India's ambitious **Ayushman Bharat** scheme has provided free care to almost **7 lakh** people in its first 100 days.
- The **Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**, aims to provide insurance cover of five lakh rupees per annum to 50 crore poor people.
- The world's largest ambitious health care scheme, aims to benefit more than 10 crore poor families in the country.

25TH EDITION OF PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT HELD IN MUMBAI



- The **25th** edition of the **CII 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, kicked off in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**. The event will be concluded on 13th January 2019.
- The inaugural session of the summit themed at **'New India: Rising to Global Occasions'** will be attended by over 1000 delegates from 40 countries.
- This edition of the summit will showcase India in the present landscape of an emerging **"New India"**, the **"New Global Economic Address"**.

ARAB ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT HELD IN BEIRUT



- The **Arab Economic and Social Development Summit** took place in **Lebanon's** capital **Beirut** in which the Arab leaders have agreed a 29-item economic agenda in addition to encouraging the safe return of Syrian refugees to their homeland.

Key Points :

- About 20 countries took part in the summit and issued a joint statement called the **Beirut Declaration** which called for the establishment of an Arab free trade zone and the international community to support countries hosting refugees and displaced people.

2ND WORLD INTEGRATED MEDICINE FORUM 2019 INAUGURATED IN GOA

- 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.



JAPAN'S PASSPORT RANKED WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL, INDIA'S 79TH

- According to the Henley Passport Index, **Japan** has retained its **top spot** as the world's most powerful passport this year, with its citizens able to enter **190 countries** without requiring a visa.
- **India's** passport was ranked **79th**, having visa-free access to 61 destinations.
- **Singapore** and **South Korea** come **second** with access to 189 countries each while France and Germany share the third spot with access to 188 countries each.

14TH GLOBAL RISKS REPORT, THE 2019 EDITION, WAS RELEASED BY WEF



The Global Risks Report 2019 14th Edition

- 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.

About the Report :

- 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 taught leaders to gauge the risks facing our world.
- The risks in the report has been divided into 2 parts:
- **Top 10 Risks by Likelihood and Top 10 Risks by Impact.**
- Further the risks were divided into 5 categories of: (1) economic vulnerabilities, (2) geopolitical tensions, (3) societal and political strains, (4) environmental fragilities, and (5) technological instabilities.
- It was done in partnership with: **Marsh McLennan Companies and Zurich Insurance Group.**

1.5 EMINENT PERSONS

BARACK OBAMA NAMED MOST ADMIRER MAN

- Former President of United States of America (USA), **Barack Obama** has been named as the most admired man by Americans for the **11th year** in a row according to a Gallup poll. Present President of USA, **Donald TRUMPS** is ranked 2nd for the fourth consecutive year.

1. Former First Lady of USA **Michelle Obama** was also voted as the most admired woman by Americans.
2. Hillary Clinton missed the top of the list for the first time in 17 years.

FIRST FORT BEND COUNTY JUDGE



- Indian-American **KP George** sworn in as the Fort Bend County Judge, becoming the **first person from the community** to hold the office of one of America's most diverse counties.
- Mr. George, 53, a Democrat and Fort Bend Independent School District Board trustee, defeated Republican Judge Robert Hebert in November polls.

SUBASH CHANDRA BOSE AAPDA PRABANDHAN PURASKAAR

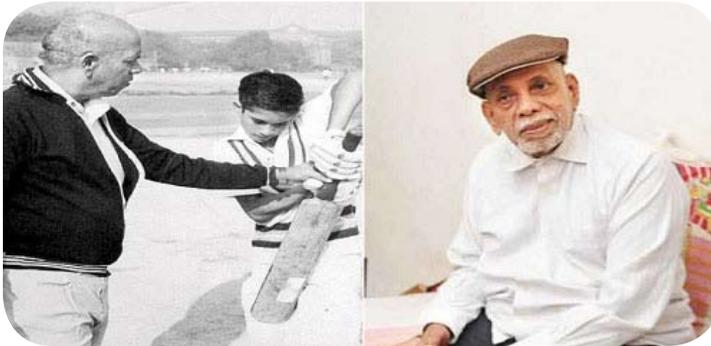
- The central government has launched **Subash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskaar annual awards** to recognise the excellent work done by individuals and institutions in the country in the field of disaster management.
- The award has been instituted with an aim to recognise the efforts of individuals and organisations who have been working assiduously to alleviate human suffering caused by disasters.



About the Award

- As per the statement issued by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) three eligible institutions and individuals will be given the '**Subash Chandra Bose Aapda Prbandhan Puraskaar**' every year with cash rewards ranging from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.51 lakh. Only Indian nationals and Indian Institutions are eligible for this award.

RAMAKANT ACHREKAR PASSED AWAY



- **1990 Dronacharya awardee** cricket coach **Ramakant Achrekar**, who coached Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar passed away at 86.
 1. Besides **Tendulkar**, he also coached other prominent players like **Vinod Kambli**, **Pravin Amre**, **Sameer Dighe** and **Balwinder Singh Sandhu**.
 2. Because of his contribution to the sport, he was honoured with **Padma Shri in 2010**.
 3. The **Kamath Memorial Cricket Club** in **Dadar** was founded by him.

APARNA KUMAR FIRST FEMALE IPS TO REACH THE SOUTH POLE



- Aparna kumar , 2002 batch IPS officer of **Uttar Pradesh** is the first serving officer to finish this daunting challenge
- Aparna already became the first officer of the All India Services to have successfully climbed **Antarctica's highest peak Mount Vinson Massif in 2016** and then climbed **Mount Manaslu in the west-central part of Nepal in 2017**.

HIGHEST PEAK OF ANTARCTICA



- 30 years old former National level Volleyball player turned mountaineer, **Arunima Sinha** became the world's first female amputee to climb **Mount Vinson**, the highest peak of **Antarctica**.

Key Points :

- The **Padma Shree Awardee**, **Arunima Sinha** became the first woman amputee to climb Mount Everest in 2013.
- She is from **Uttar Pradesh** and had lost one of her legs in a horrific incident in which she was thrown off the Padmawati Express train in 2011.
- Arunima Sinha's aim is to summit seven peaks across seven continents. She had already scaled five peaks which are **Mt Everest**, **Mt Kilimanjaro**, **Mt Ebrus**, **Mt Kosciuszko** and **Mt Aconcagua**.

INDIA'S SATYARUP SIDDHANTA BECAME WORLD'S YOUNGEST MOUNTAINEER TO CLIMB 7 PEAKS, 7 VOLCANO SUMMITS

- 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.
 1. This feat was attained after he conquered Antarctica's highest point, **Mount Sidley**.
 2. He achieved the feat at the age of 35 years and 262 days.
 3. In 2018, Satyarup had scaled the highest volcanic peak in **North America, Pico de Orizaba**.
 4. He beat the record of Australia's Daniel Bull who had done it at the age of **36 years 157 days**.



WORLD'S OLDEST MAN MASAZO NONAKA DIES IN JAPAN AGED 113

- World's oldest man **Masazo Nonaka** died due to natural causes in the **Japan's** northern most island of Hokkaido at the age of **113**.
 1. Masazo Nonaka was born on **25 July 1905** and have lived with his four generation family.
 2. Japan has one of the world's highest life expectancies. The Longest living man on record Jiroemon Kimura who died after his 116th birthday in June 2013 was also from Japan.



1.6 PLACES IN NEWS

INDIA TO BUILD NEW VERTICAL BRIDGE TO REPLACE PAMBAN BRIDGE

- Indian Railways is building the country's first vertical-lift bridge to connect **Rameswaram** in the **Arabian Sea** to mainland India. The bridge will allow ships and stammers to pass through without any hindrance.
- The new bridge would replace the existing **104-year-old Pamban bridge**. It would be ready in the next four years.



About the New Vertical Bridge

- The New Bridge will have a **63-metre** stretch which will lift up while remaining parallel to the deck to allow access to the ships. The lifting would be done using sensors at each end.
- The new bridge will have **Electro-Mechanical** controlled systems which will be interlocked with train control systems in place of existing manual operation and control.

1.7 SPORTS & GAMES

FIRST PERSON TO MAKE THE 1,600 KM JOURNEY WITHOUT ANY ASSISTANCE

- An American adventurer (**Colin O' Brady, 33**) has become the first person to complete a solo trek across **Antarctica** without assistance of any kind.
- He took 54 days to complete nearly **1,600 km** journey, crossing the frozen continent from coast to coast.
- Mr. **O'Brady** an Englishman and **Louis Rudd, 49**, set off individually on **November 3** from **Union Glacier** in a bid to be the first to complete a solo, unassisted crossing the Antarctic.
- In **1996-97**, a **Norwegian** polar explorer, **Borge Ousland**, made the first solo crossing of **Antarctica** but he was wind-aided by kites on his voyage.

LAUREUS WORLD COMEBACK OF 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**.

ICC ANNOUNCES MEN'S TEST AND ODI TEAMS OF THE YEAR

- **The International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced the **Men's Test and ODI teams** of the year with **Virat Kohli** as the Captain of both teams following his brilliant performance in 2018 as a Batsman as well as a Captain.

DHONI BECOMES FIFTH INDIAN TO REACH 10000 RUN MARK IN ODIS

- Dhoni makes his place in the list 10000 runs club like Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid and Virat Kohli had scored 10,000 ODI runs for India. Former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the **fifth Indian** to reach the milestone of **10,000-run** mark in One-Day Internationals (ODIs) for the country.

MODRIC BEATS DJOKOVIC TO WIN BALKAN ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD

- Croatia's captain and Spanish club Real Madrid's midfielder Luka Modric was named the **Balkan Athlete of the year** beating Men's tennis world number one player **Novak Djokovic**.
- Balkan Athlete of the year was organized by the **Bulgarian News Agency (BTA)**.



Key Points

- Serbian player **Novak Djokovic** got second position whereas women's number one tennis **Romania's Simona Halep** got third position in the Balkan's poll.
- **Luka Modric** lead **Croatia** to the **FIFA World cup** final and bagged player of the tournament for the FIFA 2018 organized in Russia.
- **Modrik** had also won the prestigious men's **Ballon d'Or award** for the first time in December 2018.

ICC AWARDS 2018

- 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).
- The second Indian woman to win an ICC award after fast bowler **Jhulan Goswami**, who was named the **ICC Women's Player of the Year in 2007**.
- **Harmanpreet Kaur** of India who spearheaded her side to the semi-finals of the ICC Women's World T20 2018 held in the Caribbean in November 2018, has been named the **captain of ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year**.
- The other awardees in different categories of the ICC Women Cricket 2018 include:

Player (team)	Category of award
Alyssa Healy (Australia)	ICC Women's T20I Player of the Year
Sophie Ecclestone (England)	ICC Women's Emerging Player of the Year
Suzie Bates (New Zealand)	Captain ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year

80TH NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP BEGINS IN CUTTACK

- **80th National Table Tennis Championship** organized by **Odisha State Table Tennis Association (OSTTA)** began at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in **Cuttack, Odisha**.

JASPRIT BUMRAH BECOMES TOP WICKET-TAKER IN INTERNATIONAL CRICKET IN 2018

- 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.
 1. South African fast bowler **Kagiso Rabada** ranked 2nd in the list of Highest International wicket taker of 2018 with **77 wickets**.
 2. Indian spin bowler **Kuldeep Yadav** along with Adeel Rashid and Rashid Khan ranked 3rd with **76 wickets** in 2018.



WICKETS	BOWLER
78	JASPRIT BUMRAH
77	KAGISO RABADA
76	KULDEEP YADAV
76	ADIL RASHID
72	RASHID KHAN

NOVAK DJOKOVIC AND SIMONA HALEP WERE NAMED TOP

- The Serbian tennis player, **Novak Djokovic** and **Simona Halep**, the Romanian tennis player, were named top seeds for next week's **Australian Open**.
- **Djokovic** heads **Rafael Nadal** and defending champion **Roger Federer**. Halep takes the top seeding among the women courtesy of her world number one ranking, but she enters the tournament with only one match in four months.

INDIAN-ORIGIN SINGAPORE STUDENT WINS GOLD MEDALS

- 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** from 20th December to 22nd December 2018.
- Dhruv Manoj won in the “**names and faces**” and “**random words**” disciplines, beating 56 other contestants in the “kids category”.
- Dhruv has mastered the Roman memory technique of creating “**memory palaces**”, which works by associating the ideas or objects to be memorized with scenes imagined at familiar locations.

RISHABH PANT 1ST EVER INDIAN WICKETKEEPER TO SLAM TEST ON AUSTRALIAN SOIL



- India's wicketkeeper **Rishabh Pant** became the first Indian wicketkeeper batsman to score a century in Test against **Australia on Australian soil** after hitting **159 runs on the 2nd day of 4th Test Match at Sydney, Australia**.
- **Rishabh pant** broke **Farokh Engineer's** record of highest Test runs against Australia on Australian soil. Farokh Engineer scored **89 runs in 1967**.
- Rishabh Pant also became the only Indian wicket keeper who has two test centuries outside Asia.

VIRAT KOHLI LEADS INDIA TO FIRST-EVER TEST SERIES WIN IN AUSTRALIA

- Indian Cricket Team skipper, **Virat Kohli** led the country to a maiden series victory on Australian soil, ending a **71-year** wait to script a golden chapter in the game's history.



Key Points:

- India won their first-ever Test series in Australia by a margin of 2-1 after play in the fourth and final Test in Sydney was abandoned due to rain and the match was called off as a draw.
- **India Became the First Asian team to win a Test series in Australia.**
- India managed the feat for the first time since they began touring Australia in 1947-48.
- **Virat Kohli** became the first Indian as well as the first Asian captain to win a Test series in Australia.

NISHIKORI, PLISKOVA WIN BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL TITLES

- The **Brisbane International 2019** was played on outdoor hard courts in Brisbane, Queensland, **Australia**.
- It was the **eleventh** edition of the tournament and took place as part of the Australian Open Series in preparation for the first Grand Slam of the year.
- **Venue:** The event took place at the **Queensland Tennis Centre** in Tennyson.
- **Results:** The results of the Brisbane International 2019 are as follows:

Event	Winners	Runners- up
Men's Singles	K. Nishikori (Japan)	D. Medvedev (Russia)
Women's Singles	K. Pliskova (Czech Republic)	L. Tsurenko (Ukraine)
Men's Doubles	M. Daniell (New Zealand)	R. Ram (USA)
	W. Koolhof (Netherlands)	J. Salisbury (Britain)
Women's Doubles	N. Melichar (USA)	H. Chan (Taiwan)
	K. Peschke (Czech Republic)	L. Chan (Taiwan)

ROHIT SHARMA 1ST INDIAN TO SLAM 5 ODI HUNDREDS IN AUSTRALIA

- 31-year-old **Rohit Sharma** slammed his **22nd ODI** century in the first match of three-ODI series against **Australia** at the **Sydney Cricket Ground**.
- Sharma surpassed wicketkeeper **Adam Gilchrist** to become the **third highest-run scorer** in ODIs between the two countries.
- He is the 1st Indian to bat 5 hundreds in ODI cricket in Australia.
- This is Sharma's 7th ODI against Australia, but it is the fifth time he has scored a ton in Australia.

1ST NATIONAL EMRS NATIONAL SPORTS MEET, 2019 HELD AT HYDERABAD

- **Shri Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor** Minister of State for Tribal Affairs launched the 1st National Level Sports Meet for the students of Eklayya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) at G.M.C Balayogi Stadium, Gachibowli, Hyderabad.

CHENNAI'S GUKESH CROWNED INDIA'S YOUNGEST GRANDMASTER

- A 12 year old Tamil Nadu boy **D Gukesh** became the youngest Grand master in **India** and second in the world. He achieved this feat by beating **D K Sharma** at 17th Delhi International Open Chess tournament in Delhi.



Key points :

- D Gukesh became India's **59th** Grand Master.
- **Sergey Karjakin** of **Ukraine** is the world's youngest Grand master.
- This was D Gukesh's **third** Grand master norm. His first GM norm was during the Bangkok Open in 2018.

KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES: HOSTS MAHARASHTRA FINISH TOP WITH 228 MEDALS

- 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.



MARY KOM NAMED EVENT AMBASSADOR OF 16TH TATA MUMBAI MARATHON



- Six-time women's world boxing champion and Olympic medallist **M C Mary Kom** was named as the event ambassador for the **16th Tata Mumbai Marathon** which will be held in **January 20, 2019**.
 1. It would be organized by **Procam International**.
 2. The marathon will have a prize money of **USD 405,000** and will see the participation of over 46,000 runners.

VIRAT KOHLI AND RAVI SHASTRI RECEIVED HONORARY MEMBERSHIP OF SYDNEY CRICKET GROUND

- **Virat Kohli** and coach **Ravi Shastri** received honorary membership of the **Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG)** for their contribution to the sport of cricket.
- The only other international cricketers to be granted the honorary membership of the SCG are iconic **Sachin Tendulkar** and **Brain Lara** of the West Indies.



BENGALURU RAPTORS WIN PREMIER BADMINTON LEAGUE TITLE



- The **Bengaluru Raptors** beat **Mumbai Rockets** by 4-3 in the final of the **Premier Badminton League (PBL)** 2019 at the Kanteerava Indoor Stadium in **Bengaluru** to win their maiden title.

Key Points:

- Various other award winners of the League include:

KARTIK BECOMES YOUNGEST INDIAN TO WIN JUNIOR WORLD TITLE



- Gurgaon's 8-year-old **Kartik Singh** won the under-8 category Junior world title at the **Kids' Golf World Championship** organised by US kids Golf in **Malaysia** to become the youngest Indian to win the title.
 1. Kartik is a member of the junior programme at the DLF Golf Academy.
 2. The DLF Golf Academy which was opened in **1999**, is the first professional golf school in the country and **Karan Bindra** is the Director of Instruction.

Best Comeback of the Tie	Sameer Verma
Attacking Player of the Tie	Kidambi Srikanth
Indian Oil Indian Player of the Tie	Kidambi Srikanth
Smartest Player of the Tie	Sameer Verma
Attacking Player of the League	Mathias Christiansen
Emerging Player of the League	Anders Antonsen
Indian Oil Indian Player of the League	Sameer Verma
Vodafone Smartest Player of the League	Kidambi Srikanth

MAHARASHTRA TO HOST KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES 2019

- **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.



Key Points:

- **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG)** is a part of **Khelo India** which is the revamped national programme for development of sports in India.
- Students from colleges and universities are participating in the event for the first time.

MARY KOM ATTAINED NUMBER ONE POSITION IN AIBA RANKINGS



- 36 years old boxer, **MC 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**.

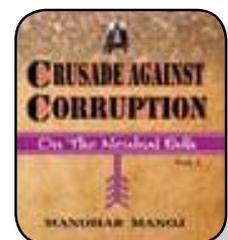
Key Points:

- Ukraine's Hanna Okhoto ranked number 2 in the ranking released by **AIBA with 1100 points**.
- Mary Kom will have to jump to 51 kg category in order to participate in **2020 Olympics** because **48 kg Category** is not included in the Olympics yet.
- **Mary Kom** has already achieved the feat to become the first woman boxer to win six world championship.
- Pinki Jangra has been placed **8th in the 51 kg Category** whereas Asian Silver Medalist Manisha Maun is place 8th in 54 kg Category.

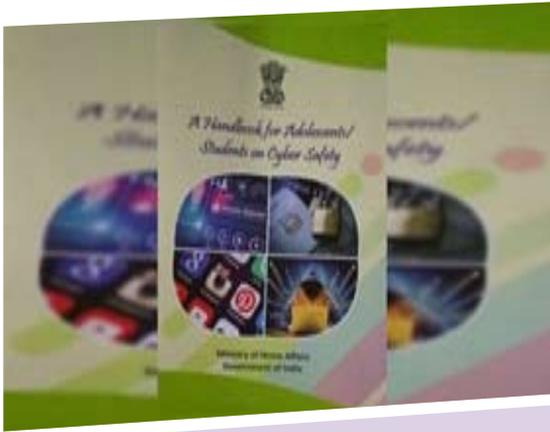
1.8 BOOKS & AUTHORS

A CRUSADE AGAINST CORRUPTION

- Vice-Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Harivansh Narayan Singh launched **Manohar Manoj's** book 'A **Crusade Against Corruption**' at the Press Club of India in New Delhi.
- The book written over a period of 15 years is claimed as the '**Encyclopaedic snapshot on Corruption in India**'.



A HANDBOOK FOR STUDENTS ON CYBER SAFETY

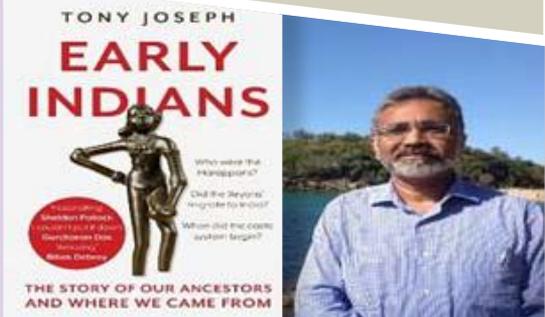


- **The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India** has released a booklet titled **“A Handbook for Students on cyber Safety”** to inform the school children about the different aspects of cyber safety.

1. The booklet aims to create awareness among citizens especially students about cyber threats and provides details about the various safeguards that can be adopted by the children in order to protect themselves from cyber grooming.

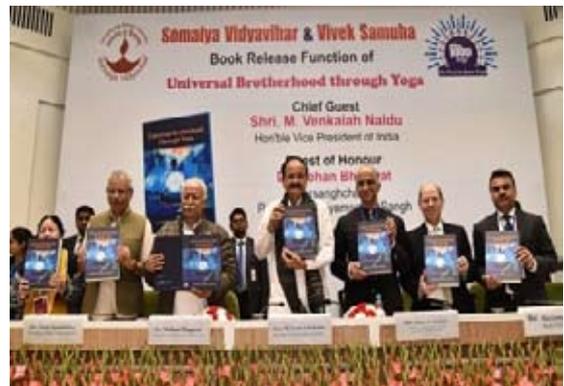
“EARLY INDIANS: THE STORY OF OUR ANCESTORS AND WHERE WE CAME FROM”

- The book titled **“Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From”** written by **Tony Joseph**.



VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA LAUNCHED THE BOOK ‘UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD THROUGH YOGA’

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



We Are Displaced

- **Malala yousafzai**, the **youth icon of the world** and the **Noble Prize winner** has come up with the new book, **“We Are Displaced”** about my Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World .
- Through this story,she tells about her experience of travelling through the world and visiting the **refugees**.



BOOK ON SRI CHANDRASEKHARENDRA SARASWATI LAUNCHED

- The book titled '**Embodiment of Truth - Kanchi Mahaswami (Volume 1)**' was launched on the 25th shradhanjali of the Pontiff of **Sri Kanchi Kamakodi Peetam** at **Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan**.



1.9 AWARDS & HONOURS

MADHYA PRADESH'S DIVYA PATIDAR JOSHI CROWNED MRS. INDIA 2018 TITLE



- **Divya Patidar Joshi** from **Madhya Pradesh** was crowned with the **Mrs. India 2018** title at the **Mrs. India My Identity Beauty Pageant 2018 finale** held in **New Delhi**.
 1. With this win, in the year **2019**, she would be representing India for **Mrs. Universe** title.

'CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE' AWARD

- **Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh** was conferred the '**Champions of Change**' award by **Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu** in **Delhi**.
- He was recognised for his leadership role in transforming the governance in the north-eastern state.
 1. At a programme to identify the progress made in 115 '**aspirational districts**', **Manipur** was chosen for its all-round development on various parameters in all its '**aspirational**' districts.



SITARIST MANJU MEHTA GETS TANSEN SAMMAN

- Noted sitar player **Manju Mehta** conferred with the '**Tansen Samman**' for 2018 by the Madhya Pradesh government for her contribution in the field of music.
- Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar presented the award to **Mehta, 74**, at the inaugural ceremony of the Tansen Music Festival.
- The '**Raja Mansingh Tomar Honour**' was given to the Sankat Mochan Pratishthan in **Varanasi** for 2017 and the **Natrang Pratishthan** of New Delhi for 2018.



KEONJHAR POLICE HONOURS 10 ASHOK CHAKRA RECIPIENTS WITH POSTAGE STAMPS

- The **Keonjhar Police, Odisha**, in collaboration with **India Post** has issued 10 postage stamps, each featuring the **Ashok Chakra** Awardees from **Police Department** (State Police and Central police) across the country, under the “**My Stamp**” scheme.

Key Points:

- The stamps which are of **Rs.5.00** denomination and have the background picture of **Sun Temple, Konark**, recognizes the acts of valour by khaki-clad personnel.
- “Ashok Chakra”, which is India’s highest peacetime gallantry medal with **84** awardees till date is equivalent to “**Param-Veer Chakra**”.
- Most of the “Ashok Chakra” medallists are defence personnel and few civilian. Out of this, only **10** are police personnel.
- The list of **10 police** personnel named in postage stamp is as follows:

Randhir Prasad Verma	Kamlesh Kumari Yadav
Pramod Kumar Satapathy	R. P. Diengdoh
Mohan Chand Sharma	K Prasad Babu
Tukaram Omble	Vijay Salaskar
Hemant Karkare	Ashok Kamte

ISRO CHAIRMAN K.SIVAN WAS AWARDED GOLD MEDAL BY SSI

- **ISRO chairman K.Sivan** was presented the National Systems Gold Medal by the **Systems Society of India (SSI)** during the **42nd National Systems Conference held in Thiruvananthapuram**.
- The medal acknowledges his outstanding contributions to system science and engineering. **B.N. Suresh, the Chancellor,** Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST).

IIT PROFESSOR AWARDED FOR CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OF GEO-SPATIAL SCIENCE

- 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.

Key Points:

- The award which carries a citation, a medal and Rs.1,00,000 was conferred to J. K. Ghosh, a professor at the civil engineering department of the IIT Roorkee on 5th December 2018 at **SAC (Space Application Centre)** Ahmedabad.
- The Indian Society for Remote Sensing is an organisation known in the area of space science, remote sensing and geo-spatial technology.

12TH 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 Pratishtan** in Kalaburagi, **Karnataka**.
 1. He was honoured for his exemplary work in children's healthcare for 40 years.
 2. He is the **12th** recipient of this award after its inception in **2000**.
 3. In this award, he got a cash prize of **Rs.10,000**, a medal and a citation.

About Dr. P.S. Shankar Pratishtan:

- Headquarters: Kalaburagi, Karnataka.
- President: Smt. Ambika Shankar.

SUPERSTAR OF STEM INITIATIVE



- **Three** Indian-origin women scientists were among the **60 Superstars of STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) list awarded by **Australian government**.
 1. The 3 scientists are **Onisha Patel**, **Devika Kamath** and **Asha Rao**.
 2. Under the initiative, due to gender gap in STEM courses, the government there is planning to train these scientists for one year to become influencers for female students.
 3. **32-year-old, Devika Kamath** is an astrophysicist, **Onisha Patel** is doing her research on generate a cure for many cancers including breasts.
 4. Asha Rao is a cyber mathematics expert and specialises in detection of money laundering.

NATIONAL NRITYA SHIROMANI AWARD 2019 FOR ANINDITA

- 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.

Key Points:

- The award would be conferred on her in **Cuttack** on the **opening day of the 10th Cuttack Mahotsav: International Dance and Music festival** in Cuttack on **2nd January, 2019**.
- Anindita Anaam is a recipient of prestigious national awards like **Jayadev Rashtriya Puraskar** and **Bidagdha Nartaki Samman** for her outstanding achievement in the preservation and promotion of Indian art in India and abroad.

About National Nritya Shiromani Award

- Organized By: Utkal Yuva Sanskrutik Sangathan
- Venue: Cuttack, Odisha

ARUNA SAIRAM GETS SANGITA KALANIDHI TITLE

- The Music Academy conferred the title of Sangita Kalanidhi upon renowned Carnatic vocalist **Aruna Sairam** at its Sadas.
- Ms.Sairam, who has had an illustrious career spanning decades could be credited with taking the art to a wider audience both in India and abroad.
- She was also known for her collaborative exercises in music with artistes of other countries.

'NRITYA KALANIDHI' CONFERRED ON SHANTA DHANANJAYAN

- Eminent Bharatanatyam exponent Shanta Dhananjayan was conferred the title of Nritya Kalanidhi at the 13th dance festival inaugurated at The Music Academy.
- Robert G.Burges, Consul General, Consulate General for the United States of America, Chennai, presented the award to Ms.Dhananjayan.



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, Broadcast and purely digital to recognize the outstanding contributions of journalists in 2017 in **New Delhi**.



Key Points :

- The Award aims to celebrate the excellence in journalism and recognize the courage and commitment of the journalists.
- The award was instituted by **The Indian Express Group in 2005** as part of centenary year celebration of its founder, Ramnath Goenka.

RAMNATH GOENKA AWARD FOR THE HINDU SCRIBE

- **S.Vijay Kumar, Senior Deputy Editor with The Hindu in Chennai** was presented the **Ramnath Goenka Excellence in journalism Award** for Investigative Reporting (Print category).
- Instituted by the **Ramnath Goenka Memorial Foundation**, the award was presented by Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** at a ceremony in **New Delhi**.
- THE AWARD FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING IN THE BROADCAST CATEGORY WAS WON BY ANAND KUMAR PATEL OF INDIA TODAY TV.
- M.GUNASEKARAN WITH NEWS18 TAMIL NADU (BROADCAST) AND NISHANT DATTARAM SARWANKAR AND SANDEEP ASHOK ACHARYA BOTH WITH LOKSATTA (PRINT), BAGGED THE AWARDS IN THE REGIONAL.

OVERVIEW OF 76TH GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS HELD IN CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

- **76th Golden Globe Awards** to honour the best in **films and television** of calendar year 2018 was held at **Beverly Hills, California in USA.**
- **The Complete list of Winners – Films**

Category	Winner
Best Motion Picture – Drama	Bohemian Rhapsody
Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy	Green Book
Best Actor – Drama	Rami Malek for “Bohemian Rhapsody”
Best Actress – Drama	Glenn Close for “The Wife”
Best Actor – Musical or Comedy	Christian Bale for “Vice”
Best Actress – Musical or Comedy	Olivia Colman for “The Favourite”
Best Supporting Actor	Mahershala Ali for “Green Book”
Best Supporting Actress	Regina King for “If Beale Street Could Talk”
Best Director	Alfonso Cuaron for “Roma”
Best Screenplay	Brian Hayes Currie, Peter Farrelly and Nick Vallelonga for “Green Book”
Best Original Score	Justin Hurwitz for “First Man”
Best Original Song	Shallow (A star is Born)
Best Animated Feature Film	Spider-Man: Into the Spider –Verse
Best Foreign Language Film	Roma (Mexico)

SIX PROFESSORS AWARDED INFOSYS PRIZE 2018 FOR SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

- The global software major’s **Infosys Science Foundation** awarded its 10th **Infosys Prize 2018** to six eminent professors for winning across different categories of science and research at an awards ceremony in **Bengaluru.**



Key Points:

- The category in which the prize were awarded along with the winners' are-

Category	Winner
Engineering and Computer Science	Navakanta Bhat , Professor, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Chairperson, Centre for Nano Science and Engineering, IISc,
Humanities	Kavita Singh , Professor and Dean, School of Arts & Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi,
Life Sciences	Roop Mallik , Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai,
Mathematical Sciences	Nalini Anantharaman , Professor and Chair of Mathematics, Institute for Advanced Study, University of Strasbourg, France,
Physical Sciences	S.K. Satheesh , Professor, Centre for Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, and Director, Divecha Centre for Climate Change.
Social Sciences	Sendhil Mullainathan , University Professor, Professor of Computation and Behavioral Science, and George C. Tiao Faculty Fellow, The University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

DRDO RECEIVES 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**.
- DRDO's outdoor exhibits included surface-to-air missile system - Akash, model of BrahMos missile, remotely operated vehicle - Daksh, heavy weight torpedo - Varunastra, Laser Ordnance Disposal System (LORDS) and Vehicle Mounted Dazzler etc.

About DRDO

- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: 1958
- Motto: "Strength's Origin is in Science"
- Ministry: Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Defence
- Chairman - Satheesh Reddy
- Role - DRDO is responsible for the ongoing Light Combat Aircraft.

NAMITA GOKHALE WINS SUSHILA DEVI LITERATURE AWARD

- Gokhale won the Sushila Devi Literature Award for her novel “ On January 12, 2019, Writer Namita **Things to Leave Behind**“.
- She was awarded in the ‘Best Book of Fiction Written by a Woman Author’ category at the inaugural edition of **Literature and Art Festival Bhopal (BLF)**.



FIRST-EVER PHILIP KOTLER PRESIDENTIAL AWARD ENTITLED TO PM NARENDRA MODI

- The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi**, received the first-ever Philip Kotler Presidential award, in **New Delhi**.

About Philip Kotler Presidential award :

- 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.
- 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.

Reasons for Narendra Modi selected for this award:

- During his regime, India is identified as **the Centre for Innovation and Value Added Manufacturing (Make in India)**, and a global hub for professional services such as Information Technology, Accounting and Finance.
- "Adding to it initiatives such as **Make in India, Startup India, Digital India, and Swachh Bharat**, "which positioned India as a iconic country.
- "His visionary leadership resulted in the **Digital Revolution (Digital India), Unique Identification Number, Aadhaar**, for social benefits and financial inclusion. These initiative made India to be noticed as one of the best infrastructural and technically developed country.

GANGAVARAM CIRCLE POLICE RECEIVED THE AWARD FOR THE BEST CRIME DETECTION FOR 2018

- The **Gangavaram circle police** of Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh, received the **Award for the Best Crime Detection (ABCD)** for 2018 from the Chief Secretary Anil Chandra Punetha and Director General of Police R.P. Thakur in Vijayawada.
- The award was conferred on the circle personnel for solving the gold theft case that took place under the Bangarupalem station limits on December 8 last. Within a week, special parties formed by **Superintendent of Police (SP)** Vikrant Patil zeroed in on the Maharashtra gang and nabbed five accused, besides recovering 4.3 kg of gold out of the 5.75 kg gold lifted by the gang from two executives of a Mumbai gold dealer.

WHO GOODWILL AMBASSADOR YOHEI SASAKAWA RECEIVED 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.



Key points to be Noted :

- The award was instituted by the Government of India in 1995 during the commemoration of **125th Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**. The title winners would receive a cash prize of **Rs.1 crore**. The Indian government had instituted the award in **1995 to honour** individuals and institutions for their contribution towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violence and other Gandhian methods.

BHARAT RATNA CNR RAO CHOSEN FOR SHEIKH SAUD INTERNATIONAL PRIZE



- Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research announced that **the Centre for Advanced Materials of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** chose Eminent Scientist and **Bharat Ratna** recipient **CNR Rao** for the first **Sheikh Saud International Prize for Materials Research**.

BJP MP ANURAG THAKUR HONOURED WITH SANSAD RATNA AWARD

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

Key points :

- The award was presented to Thakur by the Tamil Nadu Governor **Banwarilal Purohit** in Chennai.
- The Sansad Ratna Awards was set up with the purpose of celebrating the performers of Indian Parliamentarians in 2010 upon the suggestion of former President **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**.
- **Bhartruhari Mahtab** of Biju Janata Dal, Nationalist Congress Party's **Supriya Sule** and Congress' **Rajiv Satav** were honoured with Sansad Ratna Awards last year.

INDIAN-AMERICAN GURINDER SINGH KHALSA, PRESENTED WITH THE 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.



Background:

- In 2007, Khalsa was refused access to board an airplane because of his turban.

ICC AWARDS – 2018

- **The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the 2018 Men's Awards** after a competitive year of matches across all formats. Women's awards were already announced on 31st December 2018.

Rishabh Pant named ICC Emerging Player of the Year:

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

97-YEAR OLD KERALA STUDENT MADE COMMONWEALTH LEARNING'S GOODWILL AMBASSADOR

- **Karthyayani Amma, 97**, who had bagged the first rank in the **‘Aksharalaksham’** literacy exam conducted by the Government in November last year, has been honoured by the Commonwealth of Learning.
- The Canada-based organisation which works for the promotion of education in Commonwealth countries declared the Alappuzha native as their goodwill ambassador.
- Commonwealth of Learning's goodwill **Vice-President Balasubramaniam** visited.

RANJANI MURALI RECEIVES WOMEN'S VOICE AWARD

- US-based Indian poet **Ranjani Murali** received the **‘Woman's Voice Award’** at the Apeejay Literary Festival (AKLF). The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh apart from a citation.

Woman's Voice Award :

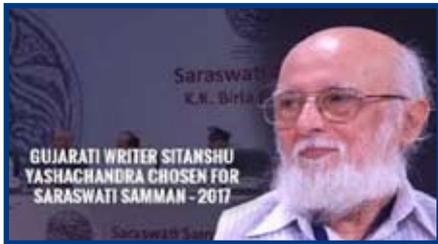
- **Prabha Khaitan Woman's Voice Award** popularly known as Woman's Voice Award aims to recognize and encourage creative writing by women in India, to help build a network of women writers across India by creating a forum for their work, and to support the publication of new creative writing by women in India. It is a joint initiative between **Oxford Bookstore and Prabha Khaitan Foundation**.

21 YEAR OLD RISHABH PANT NAMED ICC MEN'S EMERGING CRICKETER OF 2018

- India's 21-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant has been named the ICC Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year 2018.
- Pant became the first Indian wicketkeeper to score a Test hundred in England and equalled the record for most catches taken in a Test, **11 in Adelaide in December**. Pant is the third Indian to be honoured with this award.



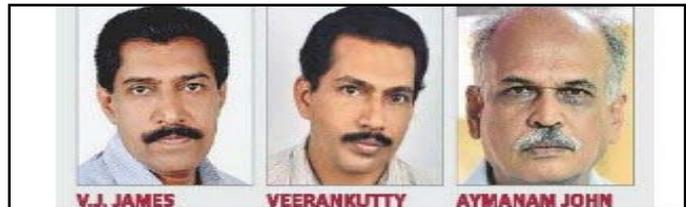
GUJARATI POET SITANSHU YASHASCHANDRA AWARDED SARASWATI SAMMAN FOR THE YEAR 2017



- 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**.

1. His poetry collection '**Jatayu**' received **Sahitya Akademi Award for Gujarati in the year 1987**.
2. The 26th Saraswati Samman, 2016 was given to Konkani language author **Mahabaleshwar Sail** for his novel 'Hawthan'.

KERALA SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS FOR 2017 HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED



- The **Kerala Sahitya Akademi Awards for 2017** have been announced. **Nireeswaran** by **V.J. James** has been selected the best novel. **Mindaprani**, written by **Veerankutty**, is the best poetry. **Aymanam John's Ethara Characharangalude Charitra Pusthakam** has secured the award for the **best short story**.

3 INDIAN EXPATS FROM UAE WIN PRESTIGIOUS PRAVASI BHARATIYA AMMAN AWARD



- **Three Indian expats from the UAE** are amongst those who **won the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award** the highest honor conferred on Indian diaspora.
- President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the award on **Girish Pant, Surender Singh Kandhari and Dr. Zulekha Daud** and other awardees at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention in Varanasi.

M.R.RAVI TO BE AWARDED THE STATE LEVEL EC AWARD

- The **Karnataka Election Commission** has selected **M.R.Ravi**, former Chief Executive Officer of Dakshina Kannada Zilla Panchayat for the State-level Election Commission award.
- The award will be presented to him for functioning effectively as the **Nodal Officer in the Assembly election process**.
- The award will be presented to him at a function to be attended by **Governor Vajubhai R. Vala** in the Town Hall in Bengaluru on January 25.
- Mr. Ravi is now Commissioner for Textile Development and Director of Handlooms and Textiles in Bengaluru.



1.10 CULTURAL PANORAMA

DWIJING FESTIVAL

- **The 12-day 3rd 'Dwijing Festival'** celebrations commenced on the banks of the **Aie river** in **Chirang district of Assam**.
- It will continue till **January 7, 2019**. It will be organised by **Assam Tourism and Bodoland Tourism**.



Background:

- The festival started as Aie River Festival in **2016-17** to promote river tourism in the **rural areas** under the **Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)**. It started under the name of '**AIE RIVER WINTER FESTIVAL**'.
- The name was officially changed to "**Dwijing (river bank in Bodo language)**" in **2017**.
- The association of the **Hagrama Bridge, the longest rural river bridge of the state**, with the festival increased its popularity.

9-DAY LONG INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL KICKS OFF IN AHMEDABAD

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.



Key Points :

- This year's Kite festival in which Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani**, Ahmedabad Mayor Bijal Patel and State Revenue Minister Kaushik Patel also took part was inaugurated by Gujarat Governor **O P Kohli**.
- This year is the **30th** edition of kite festival in which about 500 kite fliers from 19 cities of Gujarat and 13 different states of the country are participating. Besides more than 150 kite fliers from 45 different countries are also taking part in the festival.
- 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.

10-DAY INDIAN PANORAMA FILM FESTIVAL HELD IN NEW DELHI

- The **10-day Indian Panorama Film Festival**, that was inaugurated by Secretary, Ministry of I&B, Shri Amit Khare, concluded at Siri Fort Auditorium II, in **New Delhi**. It commenced on January **4**, 2019.



1. It was organized by: **Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of I&B**.
2. The opening feature film of the festival was '**Olu**', directed by Shri Shaji N Karun.
3. The opening non-feature film of the festival was '**Kharvas**', directed by Shri Aditya Suhas Jambhale.
4. 26 Feature Films and 21 Non-Feature Films were screened.
5. All the films selected under the Indian Panorama section in the 49th International Film Festival of India were screened during the Festival.

INDIAN PANORAMA FILM FESTIVAL BEGINS IN NEW DELHI

- A 10-day long **Indian Panorama Film Festival** began at Siri Fort Auditorium in **New Delhi**.
- Inaugurating the Festival, Information and Broadcasting Secretary **Amit Khare** said films rise above all constraints of languages.
- The films to be shown in the Festival reflect the **economic progress the country** has made and the changes that society has undergone.
- A total of **26 Feature Films** and **21 Non-Feature Films** will be screened during the festival.

CHARIOT FESTIVAL CELEBRATED IN MADURAI

- **Chariot festival** was celebrated in **Madurai Meenakshi temple** in **Tamil Nadu**.
 1. The Chapparam (Chariot) festival symbolizes the importance of preserving all kinds of food and fodder.
 2. A specialty of the festival is that the chariot of **Goddess Meenakshi** is pulled by lady devotees alone.

SANSKRITI KUMBH

- Sanskriti Kumbh, a **29 days** cultural extravaganza inaugurated by the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Ram Naik in the presence of the Union Minister of state for Culture **Dr. Mahesh Sharma in Kumbh Mela** area, **Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh**.

1.11 LATEST HISTORICAL EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL CAMEL FESTIVAL TO BE HELD AT BIKANER FROM 12 JAN 2019

- The **26th** International Camel Festival will be held in **Bikaner, Rajasthan** on January 12 and 13, 2019.
- On the second day of the festival, **heritage walk** will be organized from the **Rampuriya Haveli to Bikaji's Tekri**, in which the tourists will be welcomed by the city's architecture, art, culture, customs and recipes.

1.12 INDIA & ITS NEIGHBOURS

INDIA & PAKISTAN'S 28TH EXCHANGED LISTS OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS

- **India, Pakistan** exchanged lists of nuclear installations and list of prisoners for the 28th time through diplomatic channels in **New Delhi and Islamabad**.
 1. This was done under the Agreement on the **Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear installations that was signed in December 1988** which came into force in January 1991.
 2. The pact states that two countries must inform each other of nuclear facilities to be covered under the agreement on **January 1 every year**.
 3. India handed over a list of 249 Pakistani civilian prisoners and 98 fishermen in its custody.
 4. The Pakistani side handed over a list of 537 prisoners — 54 civilians and 483 fishermen — in its jails.
 5. The first such exchange was done in **January 1, 1992**.

1.13 APPOINTMENTS

VK YADAV APPOINTED NEW CHAIRMAN OF RAILWAY BOARD

- He succeeded **Ashwani Lohani**.
- Prior to his appointment, the **General Manager of South-Central Railway (SCR)**.
- He is an electrical engineer and belongs to the 1980 batch of the Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers.
- He has also served as additional divisional railway manager of Delhi division, divisional railway manager of Lucknow and chief electrical engineer of planning/traction distribution in Northern Railway.

Ministry of Railways:

- Union Minister: Shri. Piyush Goyal.
- Minister of State: Shri. Manoj Sinha, Shri. Rajen Gohain.

SUDHIR BHARGAVA APPOINTED NEW INFORMATION CHIEF COMMISSIONER

- 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**.



Key Points:

- 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.
- The appointments came weeks after the Supreme Court had asked the Centre to disclose the process of appointment of the members of the Central Information Commission, including details on applicants and search committees. The court had asked the government to maintain transparency in the process.

About Central Information Commission:

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Established: 12th October, 2005

P K SINGH APPOINTED COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA SECRETARY: CCI

- **P K Singh** was appointed **secretary** of the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**.
- Prior to this, he was adviser (law) to the competition watchdog.

- After completing 5 years of experience as the adviser to the CCI, according to the norms of the institution, he was chosen as the candidate.
 - Acting as the nodal officer for the Commission,
 - Making or receiving all statutory information and
 - Entering into any formal relationships including signing of memorandums with any foreign agency or other agency with prior approval from Commission and government.

Competition Commission of India (CCI):

- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Chairperson: Shri. Ashok Kumar Gupta.
- Established: 14th October 2003.

VIKRAM MISRI, TOOK CHARGE AS INDIA'S NEW ENVOY TO CHINA



- India's new ambassador to **China**, **Vikram Misri**, took charge of the post.
 1. He reported to Hong Lei, Deputy Director General of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing.
 2. He is a 1989-batch India Foreign Service (IFS) officer, and replaced **Gautam Bambawale** who retired in November 2018.
 3. Prior to this appointment, Misri served as Indian envoy in **Myanmar**.

INDIA-BORN GITA GOPINATH JOINED IMF AS 1ST WOMAN AND IT'S 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 Obstfeld** who retired on December 31, 2018.
 - She is the John Zwaanstra professor of International Studies and Economics at Harvard University.



International Monetary Fund:

- Managing Director: Christine Lagarde.
- Headquarters: Washington D.C., USA.

SC REINSTATED ALOK VERMA AS CBI CHIEF

- 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.
- The Central Vigilance Commission inquiry against those charges will further steps be taken against him by the high-powered committee which selects and appoints the CBI Director.

PRANAV R MEHTA BECOMES PRESIDENT OF THE GLOBAL SOLAR COUNCIL

- Pranav R Mehta, President of the National Solar Energy Federation of India has become the president of the Global Solar Council. He has become the first Indian to head the Global Solar Council.



Global Solar Council

- Global Solar Council is an international non-profit association of the national, Regional and International associations in solar energy and the World's leading corporations.
- The Global Solar Council headquartered in Washington D.C., USA. came into being following the historic United Nations Climate Change Conference (UN COP 21).

LT GEN J S NAIN TOOK OVER AS 14TH COMMANDER OF ARMY'S RISING STAR CORPS



- **Lt Gen J S Nain** took over as the **14th Corps Commander** of the **Rising Star Corps** from **Lt Gen Y V K Mohan** in **Jammu**.
 1. He is a soldier and an alumnus of the National Defence Academy.
 2. Based in Yol cantonment town in Kangra Valley, southeast of Dharamsala in **Himachal Pradesh**, the Rising Star Corps was raised in 2005 and is the Indian Army's youngest corps.

SWAMY APPOINTED KARNATAKA HC ACTING CJ

- The President of India **Shri Ram Nath Kovind** using the power conferred to him under **Article 223** of the Constitution appointed Justice **Lingappa Narayana Swamy** as the Acting Chief Justice of the **Karnataka High Court**.

RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY IS APPOINTED AS A NEW MEMBER OF HPSCI FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS

- **Raja Krishnamoorthi**, a Democratic lawmaker, has been appointed as a member of a **Congressional committee on intelligence**. He is the first South Asian to serve in the powerful body tasked to strengthen **U.S.'s national security**. Mr. Krishnamoorthi, 45, who represents Illinois's 8th Congressional District in the House.
- Along with him Congresswoman **Val Demings** of Florida, **Sean Patrick Maloney** of New York and **Peter Welch** of Vermont has been appointed as new Democratic members of the **House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI)** for the **116th Congress**. The HPSCI oversees the activities and budget of the 17 intelligence agencies of the U.S.

PIYUSH GOYAL NAMED INTERIM FINANCE MINISTER



- **Piyush Goyal** has been named the **interim Finance Minister** and **interim Minister of Corporate Affairs** during **Arun Jaitley's indisposition**. Goyal will retain his existing portfolios of **coal and railways**.
- Union Minister Arun Jaitley, 66, had left for the United States for a regular **medical check-up**. Jaitley will be designated as a minister without a portfolio during his period of indisposition.

NAVY CHIEF ADMIRAL SUNIL LANBA COMMISSIONED NEW NAVAL AIR BASE 'INS KOHASSA'

- **Indian Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba** commissioned 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.
- The new airbase in the northernmost part of the Andaman Nicobar Islands will be used for both Defence and civil aircraft.





2. Political Science

2.1 POLITICAL PARTIES AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS IN INDIA

PRESIDENT GAVE HIS ASSENT TO 2 STATE BILLS OF TAMIL NADU AND HIMACHAL PRADESH

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** approved two state bills of **Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh**.
 1. The Tamil Nadu **Vanniyakula Kshatriya Public Charitable Trusts and Endowments (Protection and Maintenance) Bill 2018**.
 2. The Himachal Pradesh Early **Childhood Care and Education Centers (Registration and Regulation) Bill 2017**.

About the Tamil Nadu bill:

- It aims to prevent misuse, misappropriation of properties and income by people.
- It will apply to all charitable trusts and endowments created and administered by persons or organisations of the **Vanniyakula Kshatriya community**.

Background:

- Many members of the community donated their properties for charitable purposes through trusts and endowments and such properties, in most cases, were neither utilised, nor maintained.
- The state government decided to constitute a separate board to save the properties and administer them without any hindrance.

About the Himachal Pradesh Bill:

- It aims to bring the **early childhood care and education centres** in the state under government monitoring.
- This will enable equal access, quality and commercialisation to childcare centres that are controlled by trusts, societies, religious groups or international funding agencies.

Background:

- As per the **86th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2002, Article 45** of the **Directive Principles of State Policy** states that “the State shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of 6 years”.
- Under **Article 200**, the Governor can reserve a bill passed by the legislature for the consideration of the President.

LOK SABHA PASSES TRIPLE TALAQ BILL

- The Lok Sabha has passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, famously referred to as Triple Talaq Bill. The bill would replace the ordinance passed in the month of September.
- The opposition members from Congress and AIADMK staged the walkout demanding that the government must refer the bill to the joint select committee.

Features of the Bill

- **Talaq-e-biddat (Triple Talaq)**
 - It refers to the practice under Muslim personal laws where pronouncement of the word ‘**talaq**’ thrice on one sitting by a Muslim man to his wife results in an instant and irrevocable divorce,
- **Cognizable offence**
 - A cognizable offence is one for which a police officer may arrest an accused person without a warrant.
- **Compounding of offence**
 - Compounding of offence refers to a procedure where the two sides agree to stop legal proceedings, and settle the dispute.

IMPORTANT CABINET APPROVALS

- The Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has given the following set of approvals.
- The important Cabinet Approvals are given as follows:
- **The Cabinet has approved.**
 1. Apprised of MoU between **India and Morocco** on Cooperation in the area of Cyber Security.
 2. Apprised of Progress under NHM and Decisions of Empowered Programme Committee and Mission Steering Group of NHM.

**AADHAAR AMENDMENT BILL INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA**

- The government introduced a bill in the **Lok Sabha** that permits the individuals to voluntarily offer **Aadhaar** as a means of identity verification for obtaining services such as opening a bank account and getting a mobile phone connection.
- The bill, which seeks to amend three separate laws governing **Aadhaar, telecom sector,** and banking regulation, also gives a minor an option to opt out of the **12-digit identity** scheme on attaining the age of **18 years.**

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GIVES ASSENT TO THE CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019

- 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**.

Key Points :

- The **Act amends Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution** to provide reservation to the economically weaker sections in the general category.
- The 10 per cent reservation will be in addition to the existing 50 per cent reservation for the Scheduled Castes, **Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (OBC)** making the total reservation quota **60%**.
- Following group of general category people are eligible for the reservation as per the law
 - Families with Income below **Rs 8 lakh per annum**.
 - People possessing agricultural land below five acres and residential house below 1000 square feet.
 - For Urban areas, people living in residential plot below 100 yards in notified municipality and residential plot below 200 yards in the non-notified municipal areas.

UNION CABINET CLEARED THE REDRAFTED CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT BILL

- 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**.

Features of the Bill:

- First introduced in Parliament in **2016**, the bill seeks to amend the **Citizenship Act 1955**.
- It enables grant of Indian nationality to people from minority communities — **Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians**— from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan after six years of residence in India instead of 12 even if they don't possess any proper document.
- **The 1985 Assam Accord** under which any foreign national, irrespective of religion, who had entered the state after **1971** should be deported.

10% QUOTA FOR THE POOR GETS LS APPROVAL

- The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed a Bill allowing 10% quota in **employment and education** for the general category candidates who belong to the **economically weaker sections**.
- The Constitution (124th Amendment) Bill, 2019, introduced by **Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thawar Chand Gehlot**, was cleared with a majority of the members (319) voting for it, and four against.

LOK SABHA PASSES CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT BILL

- The Lok Sabha on January 8, 2019 passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to amend the **Citizenship Act, 1955** to make illegal migrants who are **Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan**, eligible for citizenship. The bill has now been tabled in the Rajya Sabha.
- Under the **1955 Act**, one of the requirements for citizenship by naturalisation is that the applicant must have resided in India during the **last 12 months and for 11 of the previous 14 years**.
- The bill relaxes this **11-year requirement to six years** for persons belonging to the all the six religions from the three countries.

UP THIRD STATE TO APPROVE QUOTA FOR POOR AMONG UPPER CASTES

- **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 Approval was given in a meeting headed by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath.
- The Reservation for the poor among upper castes came into effect on 14th January 2019, when Parliament passed “The Constitution (124 Amendment) Bill 2019”.

PARLIAMENT PASSES NCTE AMENDMENT BILL

- The Parliament following the approval from the **Rajya-Sabha** passed a bill to provide retrospective recognition to central and state government funded institutions offering B.Ed and related courses that are not recognized under the **National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Act**.

Key Points :

- The **NCTE (Amendment) Bill** which will be a one-time measure would help over **17,000** students who have obtained **B.Ed** degrees from those institutions which do not have NCTE approval for the course under the 1993 law.
- **23** state and central universities and colleges offering B.Ed courses were found not recognised by the Council.

About National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Act, 1993:

- The **NCTE Act, 1993 came into force on 1 July 1995** and is applicable throughout the country, except the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The NCTE plans and co-ordinates the development of the teacher education system throughout the country and ensure maintenance of norms and standards in the teacher education system.

2.2 LATEST COURT VERDICTS

CABINET APPROVED 10 PC QUOTA 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.

About the features:

- This would be availed by those whose annual income is below Rs 8 lakh and have up to five acres of land.
- The quota will be over and above the existing 50 per cent reservation.

About Articles 15 & 16:

- **Articles 15, 16** falls under the category of Fundamental Rights in the Part III of the Indian Constitution.
- **Article 15** states that the State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them. Also nothing in this article shall prevent the state from making any special provisions for women, children or any socially and educationally backward classes.
- **Article 16 guarantees** the Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment with no discrimination being done on basis of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth.

FIVE - JUDGE CONSTITUTION BENCH LED BY CJI GOGOI TO HEAR AYODHYA LAND DISPUTE CASE

- The Supreme Court on January 8, 2019 set up a **five-judge Constitution Bench** to hear the **Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land title dispute case**.

What is the case?

- In the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid Case 14 appeals were filed against the 2010 Allahabad High Court judgement. The verdict of the Allahabad High Court judgment had partitioned the 2.77. acre land equally among the three parties - the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.
- The Allahabad High Court had concluded that Lord Ram, son of King Dashrath, was born within the 1,482.5 square yards of the disputed Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid premises over 9,00,000 years ago during the Treta Yuga.

Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid Dispute

- The Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi case is a property dispute over the land where the Babri Masjid, a 16th-century mosque once stood. The mosque was razed by kar sevaks on 6 December 1992.

SC SETS UP PANEL FOR TO SUGGEST REFORMS FOR HOLDING COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- Supreme court has set up a committee to set reforms to hold the competitive exams after the conflicts that arose in ssc examination.the committee includes **Nandan Nilekani**, a co-founder of tech giant Infosys, and renowned computer scientist **Vijay P Bhatkar**.

2.3 GOVT. - WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

MADHYA PRADESH GOVERNMENT TO CREATE AN ADHYATMIK VIBHAG (SPIRITUAL DEPARTMENT)

- The Government of **Madhya Pradesh** has announced setting up of a new **Adhyatmik Vibhag (Spiritual department)**. The proposed new department will be set up by merging several existing departments.

Anand Vibhag (Happiness Department)

- Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to create Happiness Department. The government has also announced the setting up of the Happiness Institute.

ONE DISTRICT, ONE PRODUCT SCHEME OF UTTAR PRADESH

- The Government of **Uttar Pradesh** has initiated **One District, One Product** scheme to encourage indigenous and specialized products and crafts of the state.
- The scheme aims to capitalize the rich heritage of the Uttar Pradesh by reviving them through modernization and publicisation to enhance the reach of these products.

Objective of the Scheme

- **Uttar Pradesh** is a vast State with vast diversity in all facts of life. The diversity of products and crafts in UP is breathtaking. The vast diversity encompasses the ancient and nutritious Kala namak rice, the rare and intriguing wheat-stalk craft, world-famous chikankari and zari-zardozi work on clothes.
- The intricate and stunning horn and bone work that uses the remains of dead animals rather than live ones, a nature-friendly replacement for ivory.

ADHYATMIK VIBHAGM (SPIRITUAL DEPARTMENT)

- The **Congress - led Madhya Pradesh Govern ment** an nounced that it is going to **create an Adhyat mik Vibhag (spiritual depart ment)** by merging several existing depart ment.

Key Points:

- The Congress had promised to form such a department before the last month's Assembly elections.
- The proposed Adhyatmik Vibhag (Spiritual Department) going to be formed by merging **Dharmik Nyas Evam Dharmasv Department (Religious Trust and Endowment Department)**, **Anand Vibhag (Happiness Department)** in addition to the **Directorate of Religious Trust and Endowment**, Madhya Pradesh **Teerth Evam Mela Pradhikaran and Rajya Anand Sansthan**. Madhya Pradesh had become the first state in the country to create Happiness Department.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA PRESENTS PRADHAN MANTRI RASHTRIYA BAL PURASKAR

- **Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, the President of India, presented the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2019** at Rashtrapati Bhavan in **New Delhi**.

**Key Points :**

- The awards were presented in the presence of **Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi**, Union Minister for Women and Child Development and other dignitaries.
- The Awards were given in two categories - **Bal Shakti Puraskar** (erstwhile known as National Child Award) for which **26** children were shortlisted and **Bal Kalyan Puraskar** (erstwhile known as National Child Welfare Award) for which **2** individuals and **3** institutions were awarded.

SHEHRI SAMRIDHI UTSAV

- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, **Hardeep Singh Puri** announced that Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs will organize a fortnight of events named Shehri Samridhi Utsav from 1st February to 15th February 2019.
 1. The Shehr Samridhi Utsav focusing on urban livelihoods will be celebrated all over the country with active participation from states and cities.
 2. The event is aimed at extending the outreach of **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana –National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY – NULM)**.

'ONE FAMILY, ONE JOB' SCHEME IN ROJGAR MELA 2019



- **Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling** launched the **'One Family One Job'** scheme, under which for every family one government job has been allotted, in **Gangtok**.
- New recruits were taken for Group C and Group D posts in **12** departments.
- As part of the scheme, a **"Rojgar Mela"** (employment fair) was organised at the **Paljor stadium** in **Gangtok**, where over **12,000** unemployed youths, from 32 constituencies, were handed out appointment letters.
- Sikkim became the first state in the country to carry out such a programme for the people entitling them to state government employee benefits.

Background:

- CM Chamling is the **longest serving CM** of the Independent India.

WB GOVT ANNOUNCES TWO INITIATIVES FOR FARMERS

- The **Mamata Banerjee** led **West Bengal** government announced two welfare initiatives for farmers as a part of the **'Krishi Krishak Bondhu'** scheme which will come into effect from New Year's Day **January 1, 2019**.



Key Points:

- 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**. The farmers will be able to start applying for the scheme from February 1, 2019.
- Under the second initiative, farmers would get **Rs 2,500** twice a year for growing a single crop on one acre of land. The farmers will be able to apply for this scheme from **February 1**, while the amount will be calculated from January 1, 2019.
- The **West Bengal** government has already waived tax and cess on agricultural land to help farmers in distress.
- **Odisha** government also approved **₹10,180 crore** financial aid to farmers through 'Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation' (**KALIA**) **scheme**.
- **Jharkhand** had also announced a cash assistance of **Rs 5,000** per acre to over 22.76 lakh small and marginal farmers across the state.

TO ENROL FARMERS FOR THE ATAL SOLAR KRISHI PUMP YOJANA

- **Maharashtra** Government announced distribution of free sops to encourage farmers to enrol in the **Atal Solar Krishi Pump Yojana**.
- The things included: two LED bulbs, a DC fan and a mobile charging socket.



About Atal Solar Krishi Pump Yojana (ASKP):

- Launched in October 2018, it aims to reduce losses **due to non-payment of electricity bills** and also promote solar energy.
- Farmers with less than five acres will have to pay 5 per cent of the cost of a 3 HP solar pump while farmers with more than five acres will get a 5 HP solar pump and the sops.
- It would provide subsidy of upto **95%** on solar agriculture pumpsets.
- Also around 1 lakh solar pumps were distributed to farmers to irrigate 14,000 Ha land.

2ND REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON “DEENDAYAL DISABLED REHABILITATION SCHEME (DDRS)” HELD AT MUMBAI

- **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities** organized the 2nd regional conference at Nehru Centre, **Mumbai**, on a scheme titled ‘**Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)**’.

1. The conference consisted of Programme Implementing Agencies (PIAs) from the Western Region of the country which further would culminate in a National Conference in **New Delhi**.
2. The Regional Conference was organized in order to disseminate the provisions of the revised scheme (2018) and to create better linkages between the department, agencies and stakeholders associated with the scheme.
3. The western states concerned were, namely, **Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Goa** and two Union Territories i.e., **Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu**.

About the scheme DDRS :

- DDRS is a Central Sector Scheme of Government of India which is being implemented since **1999** for providing financial assistance to NGOs working for education and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.
- The objective of the scheme is ensuring welfare of Divyangjan and the dignity they deserve.
- Under DDRS, Grant-in-Aid is released to about **600** NGOs every year.

ANDAMAN TO BE FIRST ISLAND TO OPERATE SEAPLANES UNDER UDAN-3

- **The Ministry of Civil Aviation** has approved operations of **seaplanes** in the **Andaman Islands** under **UDAN-3** (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) making Andaman the first island of India to operate seaplanes.

Key Points:

- The Islands of Andaman that would be connected through seaplanes are Campbell Bay, Car Nicobar, Havelock, Hutbay, Neil, Long island and Diglipur.
- Operation of Seaplanes which are commonly used in Maldives and Mauritius is a part government's ambitious regional connectivity scheme and it will give a huge push to tourism in the strategically important region.

About Andaman & Nicorbar Islands:

- Capital: Port Blair
- Lieutenant Governor: Admiral (Ret.) Devendra Kumar Joshi

PM MODI LAUNCHED 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.
- The first batch of 40 Indian-origin people are at the **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** and from here they will begin their tour.

PRAVASI TEERTH DARSHAN YOJANA

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana**. the features of the Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana are:
 - Under the scheme, a group of Indian diaspora will be taken on a government-sponsored tour of religious places in India twice a year.
 - The first batch of 40 people participated in the **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2019** held in Varanasi.
 - Those selected would be taken to religious places of all major religious in India.
 - The government will bear all the expenses including the airfare from their country of residence.
 - People of Indian-origin aged **45 to 65** can apply can avail the benefits under the scheme.
 - The Scheme accords first preference to people from Girmitya countries such as **Mauritius, Fiji Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica**.

3. Geography



3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS UP 22% BETWEEN 2010 AND 2014

- Released by **Government of India** that has to be submitted to the secretariat of the **UN Framework Convention of Climate change** in every 2 years recites that India's total Greenhouse emissions grew by more than **22 per cent** between **2010** and **2014**.
 1. The greenhouse gas emissions reached a level of **2.6 billion tonnes** of carbon dioxide equivalent in **2014** and has created a net carbon sink of at least **300 million tonnes**.
 2. **Carbon dioxide** absorption through forests and croplands has also gone up. The energy sector including electricity generation, transport and other fuel combustion activities are the main reason for the above mentioned effect.'

3.2 NATURAL DISASTERS - SAFEGUARD MEASURES

6.9-MAGNITUDE QUAKE STRIKES SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

- An earthquake of 6.9-magnitude struck off the southern Philippine island of **Mindanao (Dec 29)**, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.
- The quake struck **193km** east of the city of General Santos, the USGS said, with a depth of **59km**. **USGS** had earlier reported the quake measured **7.2 in magnitude** before downgrading it.
- Hazardous tsunami waves from this earthquake are possible within **300km of the epicentre** along the coasts of Indonesia and the Philippines.
- Tsunami waves are possible within **300km** of the quake, in **Philippines and Indonesia**.

TROPICAL STORM USMAN HITS PHILIPPINES

- Tropical **Storm Usman** hit Philippines' **Bicol region in Manila**.
 1. The tropical depression brought heavy rains and triggered deadly landslides all over the country.
 2. The Philippines is affected by **15 to 20 typhoons** every year during the rainy season, which usually begins in May or June and concludes in November or December.

CYCLONIC STORM ‘PABUK’ OVER ANDAMAN SEA

- 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.
- Cyclone warning for Andaman Islands is “**ORANGE MESSAGE**”.



Key Points:

- IMD issued guidelines to people living on the **Andaman islands** to remain at safe place and suspended all fishing operations in the Andaman sea and southeast and east central Bay of Bengal on 5th & 6th January 2019.
- The Cyclone PABUK will cross **Andaman by the evening of 6th January** and move towards Myanmar coast and weaken gradually during 7th and 8th January.
- PABUK was originated in the **Gulf of Thailand** and created landfall in Nakhon Si Thammarat province of Thailand on 4th January 2019.

About Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- Capital: Port Blair
- Lieutenant Governor: Admiral (ret.) Devendra Kumar Joshi

VOLCANO ERUPTS ON KUCHINOERABU ISLAND OF JAPAN

- A Volcano was erupted on **Mount Shindake on Kuchinoerabu island** of Japan which spewed ash and smoke up to 6000 metres into the air.



Key Points:

- All the 140 people living on the Kuchinoerabu island were evacuated after the violent eruption. Japan has **110 active** volcanoes.
- Kuchinoerabu Island is **1,000km** southwest of the capital, Tokyo and has an area of 38 square kilometers. The entire island lies within the borders of the **Kirishima-Yaku National Park**.

About Japan

- Capital- **Tokyo**
- Currency- **Yen**
- Prime Minister- **Shinzo Abe**



4. Economics

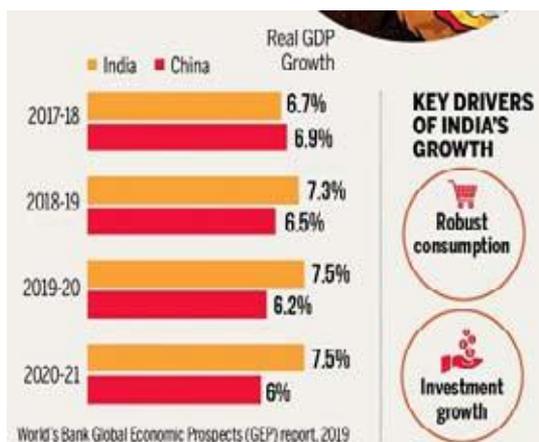
4.1 CURRENT SOCIO - ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

VIJAY MALLYA FIRST PERSON TO BE NAMED 'FUGITIVE ECONOMIC OFFENDER'

- **Under Section 12** of the **Fugitive Economic Offenders' Act, 2018** by a special **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Court in Mumbai**.
 1. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had filed an application before the court in November, 2018 and this declaration was made by Special judge **MS Azmi**.
 2. The ED had also sought immediate confiscation of about **Rs 12,500 crore** worth of assets.
 3. He is wanted in India for defaulting on Rs. 9,000 crore in loans to his failed Kingfisher Airlines from a consortium of **12** banks led by the **State Bank of India**.

INDIA'S GDP EXPECTED TO GROW AT 7.3% IN 2018-19: WORLD BANK

- 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. 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.



What is GDP? :

- Gross domestic product is a monetary measure of the market value of all final goods and services produced in a period of time, often annually or quarterly.

About World Bank:

- Founded on: **1946**
- President: **Jim Yong Kim**
- Headquarters: **Washington, D.C., United States**
- CEO: **Kristalina Georgieva**

4.2 NEW ECONOMIC POLICY & GOVT. SECTOR

INDIA RANKED AT 41ST AT THE 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**.

Highlights:

- The countries were categorized and colour coded in 4 sections. They were:
 - 1. Full Democracy** (Dark Green) scoring 8-10 & consisting of **20** countries,
 - 2. Flawed Democracy** (Light Green) scoring 6-7.99 consisting of **55** countries,
 - 3. Hybrid Regime** (Mint green to Light Yellow) scoring 4-5.99 consisting of **39** countries and
 - 4. Authoritarian Regime** (Dark Red) scoring 1-3.99 consisting of **53** countries.
- The scores were divided based on 60 indicators on five categories of:
 - Electoral process and

- pluralism;
 - Civil liberties;
 - The functioning of government;
 - Political participation; and
 - Political culture.
- For the first time in three years, the global score for democracy remained stable.
 - India got a rank of 42 falling in the ‘Flawed Democracy’ category. Following are the list of the ranks of her neighbours:

S.No	Countries	Rank
1.	China	130
2.	Pakistan	112
3.	Bangladesh	88
4.	Afghanistan	143
5.	Nepal	97
6.	Bhutan	94
7.	Sri Lanka	71
8.	Myanmar	118

GUJARAT BECOMES 1ST STATE TO IMPLEMENT 10% QUOTA TO EWS (ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTIONS)

- Gujarat Government announced to implement **10 per cent quota** for Economically Weaker sections of general category in educational institutions and government jobs for general category poor candidates.
- This quota will be implemented for every job offers or admission process that is to start from **January 14, 2019**.



INDIA KNOCK DOWN UK IN LARGEST ECONOMY RANKINGS

- India surpassed the UK in the 2019 rankings of world's largest economies by increased rate **1.65% GDP** growth. India Is Poised To Become The World's **Fifth Largest Economy**.

Key Points:

- France also surpassed the UK in the world's largest economy rankings in 2019, knocking it from fifth to seventh place with increased rate of **1.7% GDP**.
- Due to lower growth rate we may have a trade war in 2019, main focus of tension would be between US-China trade
- The US was the world's largest economy with a size of 19.39 trillion dollars, followed by China at 12.23 trillion dollars at the second place in 2017.

IRANIAN BANK TO OPEN IN MUMBAI

- India has permitted an Iranian private bank to open a branch in Mumbai that is expected to begin operations by **March** to handle transactions related to **New Delhi's oil purchases** in view of American sanctions on Tehran.
- **Chabahar port**, on Iran's southern coast along the Gulf of Oman, is being developed as a transportation corridor for **landlocked Afghanistan that bypasses Pakistan**.
- Iron and Construction, Development of Transport and Infrastructure Company (CDTIC) of Iran are now building the **Chabahar-Zahedan** railway line.

GOVERNMENT REVIVIES PLAN TO CHANGE FISCAL YEAR TO JAN-DEC: REPORTS

- The government has reportedly revived plans to change the fiscal year to **January-December from the April-March period**.
- This is expected to help the government include monsoon forecast in Budget projections, thereby ensuring better allocation of resources to agricultural sector.
- India has been following the **April-March fiscal year since 1867**, in line with what the British Government and followed.

INDIA'S GROWTH TO ACCELERATE FROM 7.4% TO 7.6% IN FY20: UN REPORT

- With robust private consumption and 7.4% GDP growth rate in the current fiscal, the **Indian economy is expected to accelerate at a rate of 7.6% in 2019-20**, according to a report by the United Nations titled **United Nations' World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2019**.

INDIA IS SET TO BECOME WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST CONSUMER MARKET

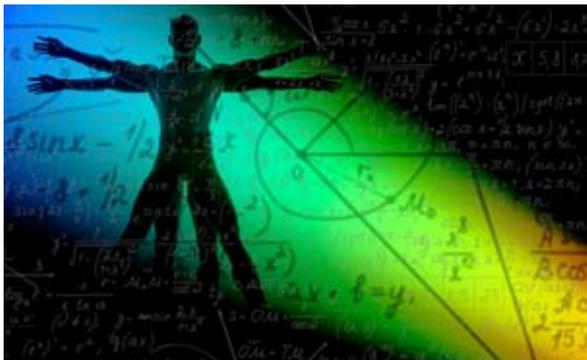
- A report by World Economic Forum today said that India is set to become the world's third largest consumer market behind only **USA and China by 2030**. The report titled "**Future of Consumption in Fast-Growth Consumer Market- India**" also noted growth of the middle class will lift nearly 25 million household out of poverty.

Key points:

- Consumer spending in India is expected to grow from 1.5 trillion US dollar at present to 6 trillion **US dollar by 2030**.

About World Economic Forum:

- Headquarters: **Cologne, Switzerland**
- Founder and Executive Chair man: **Klaus Schwab**
- Founded: **1971**

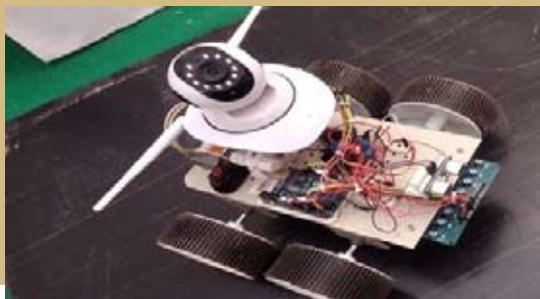


5. Science

5.1 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RAILWAYS DEVELOPS AI-POWERED ROBOT TO CHECK FOR FAULTS IN TRAINS

- The mechanical branch of **Central Railway's Nagpur** division has developed a new AI-powered robot named **USTAAD (Undergear Surveillance through Artificial Intelligence Assisted Droid)** which examines parts of the coach in real time with a HD camera and transmits them over WiFi.



Features:

- The special features of the robot include **HD (high-definition) camera** that can be rotated in any direction as per commands given by the engineer and can capture video as well as still photographs with zoom in or out facility.

- It is also equipped with **LED flood light** which enables to capture the videos in low light as well as in dark mode.
- The robot is also capable of capturing sound of flat tyre, during placement of the rake on the Pit Line in order to keep a check on the train's swift journey.

MANNED SPACE MISSION TO TAKE OFF

- The Union Cabinet approved the ambitious **Ganganyaan** programme, which will send three Indian astronauts to space for up to seven days by **2022** at a cost of **₹10,000 crore**.
- The first human space flight demonstration is targeted to be completed within 40 months of the sanction date. Two unmanned flights in full complement will be carried out to gain confidence.



NASA'S NEW HORIZONS SPACECRAFT HISTORIC FLY BY OF ULTIMA THULE

- The American space agency **NASA's New Horizons** spacecraft performed the farthest flyby in history as it approached the **Kuiper Belt** object **Ultima Thule**.

Key Points:

- At **6.5 billion km** from Earth, the encounter is the most distant ever exploration of a Solar System body. The cosmic rendezvous occurred so far from Earth that it took more than 6 hours for a signal from New Horizons to reach Earth.
- **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.

About National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA):

- Headquarters: **Washington, D.C., United States**
- NASA Chairman: **Charles Bolden**



ISRO LAUNCHES 'SAMWAD' WITH STUDENTS TO ENGAGE THEM ON SPACE SCIENCE

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** launched a new platform named "**Samwad with Students**" (SwS) as part of the enhanced outreach programme and to engage youngsters across India to capture their scientific temperament in Bengaluru.



Key Points:

- The first **SwS** event saw interaction of 40 students and 10 teachers from select schools with ISRO Chairman **Dr K Sivan** during which the students were briefed about Indian space programme and their benefits to the common man at the **Anthariksh Bhavan**, Bengaluru.
- Under the **SwS platform**, ISRO will also be organising guided tours thrice in a year, for students of class 11 and class 12 in which they would be taken to ISRO facilities in Thiruvananthapuram and Bengaluru and the launch centre at Sriharikota. Students would also be taken to space laboratories and would be allowed to make small satellites.

NASA'S PROBE DISCOVERS A NEW PLANET

- NASA's latest planet hunting probe has discovered a new world outside our solar system, orbiting a dwarf star **53 light years** away.
- This is the **third** new planet confirmed by the **Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)** since its launch in April last year.
- The planet, named **HD 21749b**, orbits a bright, nearby dwarf star about 53 light years away, in the constellation Reticulum, and appears to have the longest orbital period of the three planets so far identified by TESS



BRAIN PACEMAKER

- Scientists have developed a device named **WAND** which stands for "**Wireless artifact-free neuromodulation 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**.
1. The most important feature of the device is that it is both wireless and autonomous, which means when it learns to recognize the signs of tremor or seizures then it can adjust the stimulation **parameters** on its own to prevent the unwanted movements.
 2. The device has custom integrated circuits to record the full signal from both the subtle brain wave and the strong electrical pulses.

SPACE FUEL

- **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.
1. 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.
 2. These conditions are present in deep space which they mimicked in the lab.
 3. The Study was published in the journal **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)**.

ALBUMIN BETTER INDICATOR OF DIABETES: STUDY BY SCIENTISTS OF NCL, PUNE

- Scientists at the **National Chemical Laboratory, Pune** suggested that albumin can be a better indicator of diabetes.
1. This can be achieved based on measurements of levels of free albumin and albumin attached to glucose molecules in the blood.
 2. **Glycation** is binding of glucose to protein or lipid molecules and glycated hemoglobin is the percentage of glucose bound to hemoglobin.

3. These albumin levels in blood influence glycation of haemoglobin which further helps in diagnosis of diabetes.

Background:

- According to **WHO**, **levels of glycated** (or glucose-bound) hemoglobin in blood can be used for diagnosis of diabetes.

LUNAR ROVER NAMED ‘YUTU-2’, LANDS 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.
 1. Images were sent back to the Earth via the relay satellite ‘**Queqiao**’.
 2. In Chinese folklore, Yutu is the white pet rabbit of Chang’e, the moon goddess who lent her name to the Chinese lunar mission.
 3. China’s lunar probe is a part of its ‘**Made in China 2025**’ project.
 4. It follows a homegrown **Chinese Global Positioning System** named **BeiDou Navigation Satellite System**.



FIRST MANNED MISSION TO SPACE BY DECEMBER 2021: ISRO



- **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.
- As of 2019, **332** launches are planned this year. Detail of some of these missions are as follows:
 - Launch of **Chandrayan -2** mission to the moon in mid-**April 2019**. Indian land up and rover will study south-pole of the moon for the first time under Chandrayaan- 2 mission.
 - GSAT-20 Satellite for high bandwidth connectivity to be launched in September-October 2019.
 - ISRO is conceiving a mission to **Venus by 2023**.
 - **ISRO TV Channel** will be launched by another 3-4 months (March to April 2019).

5.2 LATEST DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH SCIENCE

PAPER SENSOR TO DETECT FRESHNESS OF MILK

- Scientists from the **Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati**, have developed a paper kit to test the freshness of milk and determine how well the milk has been pasteurized. The kit can also aid in ensuring that milk is consumed before it turns too sour with the help of a **smartphone app**.

How does the Kit work?

- The Kit uses an ordinary filter paper to prepare the detector. The filter paper which is cut into small pieces is impregnated with chemical probes that preferentially react with **Alkaline Phosphatase**, which is an indicator of the quality of the milk. When the filter paper impregnated with probes come in contact with

the milk, its colour changes.

- The colour change is photographed by a Smartphone. The images are then processed to obtain corresponding colour values. These values are then compared with standard data stored in the phone.
- This provides information about the quality of the Milk. Since the sensors used works in both qualitative and quantitative mode, the kit can also be used to measure the quantity of the milk.

- **Alkaline Phosphatase** or ALP is an indicator of milk quality. Its presence even after pasteurization indicates presence of microbes that may not have been rendered inactive with pasteurization.

5.3 MASS MEDIA & COMMUNICATION

RAIL KUMBH SEVA MOBILE APP

- The **North Central Railway, (NCR)** launched a mobile application the **'Rail Kumbh Seva Mobile App'** to help navigate the attendees of the **Kumbh Mela** in **Prayagraj** city from **January 15- March 4, 2019**.
- It will also provide information regarding all the 'Mela special' trains that will be run during the period.
- The app will provide a link to the user to buy both unreserved and reserved train tickets.

KUMBH JIO PHONE

- **Reliance Jio Infocomm** launched the **Kumbh JioPhone application**, especially designed for millions of pilgrims who will congregate during this year's **Ardh Kumbh Mela** at **Prayagraj**.

Key Points:

- The new app which will be available to both existing and new JioPhone users will contain information on **Kumbh**, real-time travel information (special trains, buses etc.), booking tickets and receiving updates, **'Yatri Ashray'** at stations, emergency helpline numbers, area routes and maps, pre-published bath and religious day schedules and railway camp mela.
- The new app has a feature called **'Khoaya Paya'** that will help users stay close to near and dear ones by finding their exact location.



6. National Dairy of Events



FOUR DAY 12TH ANNUAL ISDSI CONFERENCE COMMENCED IN SPJIMR, MUMBAI



- The four day long **12th Annual Indian Subcontinent Decision Sciences Institute (ISDSI)** conference commenced in **SPJIMR, Mumbai**.
 1. The conference will continue till December 30, 2018.
 2. The theme of this international conference is **“Data Driven Decision Making in the Digital Age”**.
 3. The main objective of this conference is to provide a platform for academicians, researchers and practitioners to:
 - Disseminate research, providing insights into the challenges, opportunities, emerging strategies and analytical tools in the domain of decision making;
 - Present case studies on application of tools and techniques;
 - Explore cutting- edge ideas, results and share experiences.

26TH NATIONAL CHILDREN’S SCIENCE CONGRESS

- **National Children’s Science Congress (NCSC)** was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri **Naveen Patnaik** at Sikhya O Anusandhan (SOA) University.
- Theme 2018 - **“Science, Technology and Innovations for a clean, Green and Healthy Nation.”** The event will conclude on 31st December 2018.

Key Points:

- In 2017, NCSC was held in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat** from 27th December to 31st December.
- It provides a platform to the children to showcase their creativity and ability to innovate.
- The **National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC)**, supported the NCSC 2018 in which Children in the age group of **10-17** years including school students including differently abled children will participate.
- Children from 10 member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and **five Gulf countries** will also participate in the event.

41ST MEETING OF THE CENTRAL SANCTIONING AND MONITORING COMMITTEE HELD IN NEW DELHI

- The **41st** meeting of the **Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee** under the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs** to sanction more affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)** was held at **New Delhi**.

Key Points:

- A total of **3,10,597** more affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)** has been approved by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
- The approval consists of:
 1. Beneficiary Led Construction (**BLC**) vertical- 1,91,556
 2. Affordable Housing in Partnership (**AHP**) vertical- 1,18,941
- The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of **Shri Durga Shankar Mishra**, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The State wise approval for the construction of new houses is as follows:

State	Number of Houses sanctioned
Uttar Pradesh	1,08,135
Karnataka	1,05,502
Andhra Pradesh	57,433
Odisha	21,894
Gujarat	17,633

ALL VEHICLES TO COME FITTED WITH HIGH SECURITY NUMBER PLATES FROM APR 1

- All motor vehicles will come fitted with tamper-proof **high security registration plates (HSRPs)** from **April 1** to protect against counterfeiting, Parliament was informed on **December 27**.
- The proposal to amend the concerned rule in **Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989** and revision of the **HSRP Order, 2001** was placed in the public domain for soliciting objections/suggestions and was discussed in a meeting on **June 5, 2018**.

MADHYA PRADESH DECLARES KUNO AS NATIONAL PARK

- **Madhya Pradesh** State government has declared **Kuno** wildlife sanctuary as a national park in compliance with the last condition imposed by a **Supreme Court**-appointed committee for the much awaited '**translocation of Asiatic lions from Gir in Gujarat**.'
- The move is expected to pave way for **translocation** of lions from **Gir in Gujarat** to **Kuno**.

VIRUDHUNAGAR DISTRICT RANKED AS MOST IMPROVED DISTRICT

- **Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant** released the **Second Delta Ranking of the Aspirational Districts Programme**.
- The ranking shows the incremental progress achieved by **111 aspirational districts** (out of 115) during **June 1, 2018 to October 31, 2018**, across **six** key development sectors.
- **Three** aspirational districts from **West Bengal** did not participate, while **one** district of **Kerala** could not take part because of floods.
- The 6 developmental sectors are: **Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion, Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure**.
- The data has been received from household surveys conducted by **NITI Aayog’s** knowledge partners, namely, **TATA Trusts** and **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (IDInsight)**.
- The following categorises the ranking in 3 sectors:
- The Most Improved Districts,
- The Least Improved Districts,
- Fast Movers: The districts which have shown great initiative and displayed a qualitative jump in their scores between June and October 2018.

The Most Improved Districts			The Least Improved Districts:		
Rank	District	State	Rank	District	State
1	Virudhunagar	Tamil Nadu	107	Kiphire	Nagaland
2	Nuapada	Odisha	108	Giridih	Jharkhand
3	Siddharthnagar	Uttar Pradesh	109	Chatra	Jharkhand
4	Aurangabad	Bihar	110	Hailakandi	Assam
5	Koraput	Odisha	111	Pakur	Jharkhand

Fast Movers:			
District	State	June 2018 rank	October 2018 rank
Kupwara	Jammu and Kashmir	108	7
Ranchi	Jharkhand	106	10
Siddharthnagar	Uttar Pradesh	103	3
Jamui	Bihar	99	9
Fatehpur	Uttar Pradesh	82	25

CABINET APPROVES BILL FOR SETTING UP OF NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HOMOEOPATHY

- The Union cabinet approved the draft **National Commission for Homeopathy Bill, 2018**, which seekstoreplacetheexistingregulator central council of homoeopathy with a new body to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Thedraftbillprovidesforconstitution of a national commission with three autonomous boards entrusted with conducting overall education of homoeopathy by homoeopathy education board.

Aim:

- To assess and grant permission to educational institutions of homoeopathy and board of ethics and registration of practitioners of homeopathy to maintain national register and ethical issues relating to practice are under the National Commission for Homoeopathy.
- The bill also aims at bringing reforms in the medical education of homoeopathy in line with the National Medical Commission proposed for setting up for Allopathy system of medicine.

ISLANDS OF ANDAMAN TO BE RENAMED AFTER NETAJI BOSE

- The Union Government has decided to rename **Ross, Neil and Havelock islands** of Andaman.
- The Ross, Neil and Havelock Island are to be named as Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Island, Shaheed Dweep, and Swaraj Dweep, respectively.
- The announcement about renaming is expected to be made by PM Narendra Modi on 30 December during his visit to the Islands. 30th December marks the 75th anniversary of the Netaji's visit to the Andaman Islands.

Netaji's connect with the Andaman Islands

- Netaji, accompanied by Sarvashri Anand Mohan Sahay, **Captain Rawat-ADC** and **Colonel DS Raju**, the personal physician of Netaji, landed at the Port Blair aerodrome in Andman on **29th December 1943**.
- Netaji was accorded a warm welcome. Netaji had appointed **Indian National Army General AD Loganathan** as the governor of the islands.

EIGHT DAY 11TH BENGALURU INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

- It was announced that the **8-day 11th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFES)** will start in **February 7, 2019**. It will conclude in **February 14, 2019**.
 1. The theme of the Festival would be **'Nature's Fury.'**
 2. It will be organized by: the **Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy and Department of Information and Public Relations** of Government of Karnataka.
 3. The festival is always held on first Thursday of February every year.



HIGH RANGE BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS

➤ **Telangana's MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Centre entered Guinness Book of World Records 'for organising the largest men's Health Awareness programme on prostate cancer on a single day.'**

1. The programme was organised on **October 26, 2018** and **487 participants** took part in it.
2. This is the **first** Guinness World Records achievement for the state government in the field of **medicine**.
3. The hospital also received recognition from '**High Range Book of World Records**'.
4. Thus these made MNJ Institute the **first and only government hospital** in the state of Telangana to get 2 world records.



ARUNACHAL TOUCHES RECORD HIGH REVENUE GENERATION

➤ The **Arunachal Pradesh** government recited that the government has remarkably succeeded in increasing the state revenue generation in the past two years with the record revenue collection of **Rs 1598.49 crore** during the year 2017-18 which is a new high in the last 30 years.

Key Points:

- The revenue generation had crossed the **Rs.1,000 crore** mark for two consecutive years since Arunachal Pradesh attained statehood in **1987** as in **2016-17**, the revenue generation was **Rs 1,253.57 crore**.
- The improvement in result is believed to be achieved through the **Team Arunachal** mantra which has ignited minds of the employees to deliver goods to the people of the state.
- The government in the state has set a target to reach the **Rs.2,000 crore** mark in **2018-19**.
- The source of revenue generation by the state government includes, share of central taxes, state taxes among others.

MYSURU AIMS FOR 7 STAR RATING UNDER THE SWACHH BHARAT MISSION

- The **Mysuru City Corporation (MCC)** aims for a **7-star under the Swachh Bharat Mission 2019**. Under this mission, the garbage-free cities will be awarded star ratings as per the revised protocols of the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.
- The new survey is launched across the country from **4th January 2019**. MoHUA has set various parameters such as door-to-door garbage collection, waste disposal, scientific handling of landfills, disposal of construction and demolition debris, and segregation of waste at the source for the rankings.

- Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, **100% of waste generated in a city should be scientifically managed**, and measures are taken for visible beautification of the city.

INDUS FOOD MEET 2019 TO BE HELD IN GREATER NOIDA

- 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.
- **Odisha** which will participate as '**Partner State**' will be setting up its own Pavilion with 30 exhibitors to promote exports of food processing sector.
- The event which is an initiative to promote the country as a strong exporter of food and beverage products, would be hosting over 600 prominent global buyers from food and beverage industry from over 60 countries.
- This **2nd** edition of Indus Food is likely to create a global food and beverage market place in line with global food expos like SIAL, ANUGA and Gulf Food.
- A seminar on "**Potential and prospects of Food Processing Industry in Odisha**" is also being organized during the inaugural ceremony.



106TH THE INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS



- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the 5-day long '**Indian Science Congress (ISC)-2019**' that will conclude on January 7, 2018, in **Jalandhar, Punjab**.
 1. It will be organized by **Lovely Professional University, Punjab**.
 2. The theme of 106th edition of ISC-2019, is: '**Future India: Science and Technology**'.
 3. The Nobel Laureates who will be participating include
 4. German - American biochemist **Prof. Thomas Sudoph**, who has been awarded the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for work on vesicle trafficking;
 5. A Hungarian-born Israeli biochemist and Nobellaureate in Chemistry **Prof. Avram Hershko** and a British born physicist **Frederick Duncan Michael Haldane** who has been awarded 2016 Nobel Prize in Physics.

PM MODI INAUGURATED 6TH INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN VARANASI

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited **Varanasi** and **Ghazipur** in Uttar Pradesh. He dedicated the **6th International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)**, South Asia Regional Center (ISARC) to the nation. The Institute is built at the campus of National Seed Research and Training Center (NSRTC) in **Varanasi**.
- During the visit, he laid the foundation stone of **Medical College** in **Ghazipur**.
- He also released a commemorative postal stamp on Maharaja Suheldev.
- Another important announcement is the **SAMPANN software** which is developed to ease the problems of **pensioners**.
- PM Modi also inaugurated **15 projects** worth Rs.80 crore in his constituency Varanasi.

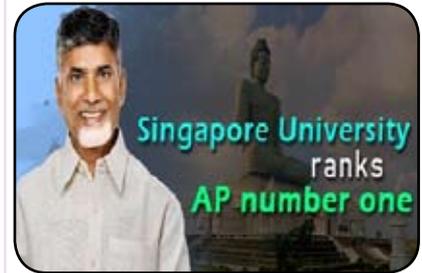
CENTRE FOR CLASSICAL LANGUAGE IN TIRUR, KERALA

- The Union Government issued its nod for setting up the **Centre for Classical Language** at the **Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University in Tirur, Kerala**.
 1. The state government will enter into an MOU with the **Union Ministry of Human Resources Development**.
 2. The HRD ministry had issued a communication in this regard to the **Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru**.
 3. The centre is aimed at study and research and other aspects of Malayalam language and its development.

Background:

- In August 2013 **Malayalam** was declared a **classical language**. In 2016, the state approached the Union Government for setting up the centre.

ANDHRA TOPS ACI'S EASE OF DOING BUSINESS INDEX



- 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.

Key Points:

- **Andhra Pradesh** rose from the 5th rank in 2016 to the top spot in 2018.
- The ACI's EDB index is based upon three parameters called ABC - Attractiveness to Investors, Business Friendliness and Competitiveness Policies.
- The index captured the business environment at the sub-national level on the basis of 72 hard and soft indicators.

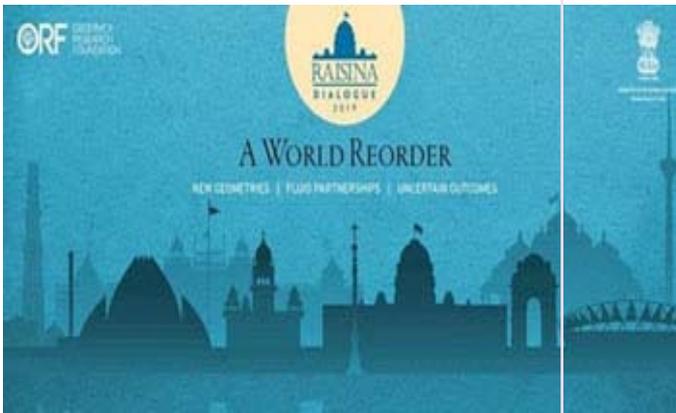
GOVERNOR TO INAGURATE NATIONAL POETS SYMPOSIUM

- All India Radio, Chennai, will host the National Poets Conference in the city.
- Governor Banwarilal Purohit will inaugurate the conference at Kalaivanar Arangam.

WORLD'S LARGEST CRICKET STADIUM IS COMING UP IN AHMEDABAD

- The picturesque stadium that came into existence in **1982 on the banks of Sabarmati River** across 50 acres of plot got its expansion plans in execution mode in **2015**.
- The demolition to expand **the 49,000-seat stadium** by more than double has started three years ago. The construction contract to Larson and Toubro was allotted the next year.

4TH EDITION OF RAISINA DIALOGUE HELD IN NEW DELHI



- **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”**.

Key Points:

- The Raisina Dialogue whose first edition was held in 2015 is India's flagship annual geopolitical and geostrategic conference.
- The Aim of the Discussion was to address the issues arising from on going global transitions and changes to the world order triggered by unique leadership, innovative partnerships and new technologies.

INDIA'S LONGEST SINGLE LANE STEEL CABLE SUSPENSION BRIDGE OPENS IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

- 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.

Key Points:

- The suspension bridge, also known as **Byorong Bridge** was built at a cost of Rs 4,843 crore and funded by the **ministry of development of North Eastern Region** under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources scheme.
- It will reduce the distance from **Yingkiang to Tuting town by almost 40 km**. The earlier road length was 192 km.

1ST 2019 'NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON CHILD PROTECTION' HELD IN NEW DELHI

- **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**.
- Following were the objectives of the meeting:
 - To follow up on the exercise of monitoring of the CCIs by States/UTs,
 - To deliberate upon various aspects of child protection and
 - To take stock of the efforts made by States/UTs regarding improvements in the Child Care Institutions.

4TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION (CTDP) HELD IN NEW DELHI

- 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**.
- Representatives of 10 states including **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Nagaland, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh** attended this meeting.

Objective:

- To tap the global value and supply chain by promoting the export of services, organic agricultural produce.

INDIAN FOREST SERVICE TO BE RENAMED AS INDIAN FOREST AND TRIBAL SERVICE: DOPT.

- The **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)** proposed renaming of the **Indian Forest Service** as **Indian Forest and Tribal Service**.
 1. The move was made for the IFS to be more receptive towards tribals and forest dwellers.
 2. This was made after a directive from the **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)** suggested to do so.

About Indian Forest Service:

- It came into existence in 1996 under the All India Services Act, 1951.

Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT):

- Minister of State: Dr. Jitendra Singh.

WEST BENGAL QUIT AYUSHMAN BHARAT SCHEME

- Bengal chief minister **Mamata Banerjee** announced exit of West Bengal from the **Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna** due to the use of PM's picture in the official poster of the centre-state joint scheme.
 1. According to the announcement, the **states** are supposed to bear **40%** of the project cost, while the **Centre** will foot **60%** of the bill.

2. Furthermore, the centre had unilaterally changed the scheme to Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana in spite of agreed efforts to retain the state sponsored health scheme name: **Swasthyasathi** which was launched in **2016**.
3. Thus, West Bengal joined the league of states of **Telangana, Kerala, Odisha, and Delhi** which have opted out of the scheme for varied reasons.

Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)

- Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) is a scheme of the government under **Ayushman Bharat**. The scheme aims to reduce the financial burden on poor and vulnerable groups arising out of catastrophic hospital episodes and ensure their access to quality health services was conceived. It also seeks to accelerate India's progress towards the achievement of **Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Sustainable Development Goal - 3 (SDG3)**.

NATIONAL CLEAN AIR PROGRAMME (NCAP) LAUNCHED 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 a mid-term, **five-year** action plan with **2019** as the first year.
 - 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**.
 - National level target of **20%-30%** reduction of **PM2.5 and PM10** concentration by **2024** taking **2017** as the base year.

ONE-DAY GLOBAL SKILL SUMMIT 2019 HELD IN RANCHI



- 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.
 1. The theme of the Summit was: '**Skilling Youth, Enabling Youth**'.
 2. It was under the **#MOMENTUM JHARKHAND** campaign.
 3. It was attended by **Shri Dharma Pradhan**, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

SIKKIM WILL BECOME FIRST STATE TO ROLL OUT UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

- 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.

ABOUT UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME:

- The UBI basically is an income given to families irrespective of what they do. It means everyone and every household will get an income irrespective of their profession.
- In other words, it is a step taken by the government to alleviate poverty by providing a basic income to all citizens
- This same scheme has been tested even in India. The UBI has been tried in **Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh** and the results are fairly good.

3-DAY 29TH INDIAN PAINT CONFERENCE – 2019 HELD IN AGRA, UP BY IPA

- The **3-day 29th Indian Paint Conference – 2019** commenced in **Agra, Uttar Pradesh**. It would conclude on January **13**, 2019.
 1. It was organised by the **Indian Paint Association (IPA)** – the apex body of the Indian Paint Industry.
 2. The theme of the Conference is 'Paints Pe Charcha – Naye Aayaam'.
 3. It was the largest trade show of the estimated INR 500 billion (50,000 Crore) Indian Paints & Coatings industry.



2+2 INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING BETWEEN INDIA AND US HELD IN NEW DELHI

- 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**.

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.
 1. It aims to celebrate and promote women farmers and entrepreneurs in the **organic sector** from the remotest parts of India.
 2. It has been organized by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.

Background:

- The Women of India Organic Festival has been held annually in New Delhi since 2015.

Ministry of Women and Child Development:

- Union Minister: Smt Maneka Gandhi.
- Minister of State: Dr. Virendra Kumar.
- Secretary: Shri Rakesh Srivastava.

TWO FESTIVAL INAUGURATED BY VICE PRESIDENT VENKAIAH NAIDU IN HYDERABAD, TELANGANA

- **Vice President Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated the **4th International Kite Festival and 2nd International Sweet Festival in Hyderabad, Telangana**.
 1. It was organised by the **Department of Tourism, Government of Telangana and the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India**, as a part of **Sankranthi** celebrations, at the Parade Grounds in Secunderabad.
 2. This year's theme for Telangana International Kite Festival was for empowerment of the girl child: **'Educate girl child and she will save the world'**.

BENGALURU PIPPED HYDERABAD TO TOP LIST OF WORLD'S MOST DYNAMIC CITIES

- 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.

About the Report:

- The report is titled: **'JLL City Momentum: The World's Top 20 Most Dynamic Cities'**.
- The 2019 edition of the survey was conducted on 131 cities over a period of 3 years.
- The key theme in this year's index was cities having a robust technology and innovation ecosystem.

PUDUCHERRY ANNOUNCED BAN OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC FROM MARCH 1, 2019

- **Chief Minister V Narayanasamy** announced that production, sale and use of single-use plastic products will be banned in the **Union Territory of Puducherry** from **March 1, 2019**.

Background:

- In June, 2018, **Tamil Nadu** government had announced that it would ban the use of plastic items including non-biodegradable carry bags from **January 1, 2019**.

NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT FESTIVAL 2019 IN NEW DELHI



- Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Col Rajyavardhan Rathore** 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”**.

Reason for the Launch:

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports propose to take the Youth Festival to every nook and corner of the country and celebrate it as the **“National Youth Parliament Festival”**.
- Organizing District Youth Parliaments and taking the festival to the doorsteps of the youth would provide chance to youth of the country to participate and share their views about how to make a **New India**.

Process involved in National Youth Festival:

- **District Youth Parliament (DYP) at the district level.** The participants for DYP would be selected through two screening processes i.e. Digital and Walk-in screenings in Nodal Institution in each district.
- **State Youth Parliament (SYP) at the State Level.**
- **National Youth Parliament (NYP) at the National Level.**
- This programme is launched in accordance with **National Youth Day**.

NINTH INTERNATIONAL MICRO IRRIGATION CONFERENCE HELD IN AURANGABAD

- Ministry of Water resources and River development has organized 9th International Micro irrigation conference in Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

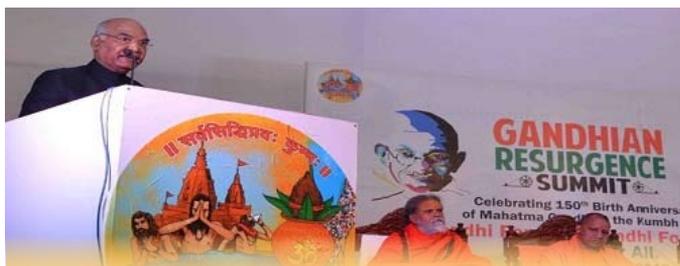
- The conference focused on the theme of **“Micro Irrigation and Modern Agriculture”**.

SURESH PRABHU INAUGURATES GLOBAL AVIATION SUMMIT 2019 IN MUMBAI

- 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.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA INAUGURATED GANDHIAN RESURGENCE

- 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.



Key points :

- The summit was organised by the **Parmarath Niketan**, the Harijan Sevak Sangh and the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance.
- Slogan used by the devotees is **“Chalo Kumbh Chale”**.
- The UP government has allocated **Rs.4,200** crore for the Kumbh Mela 2019.
- A mobile app named **‘Kumbh Mela Weather Service’** has also been developed to give information about weather during Kumbh Mela.

ARUNACHAL GOVT DECLARES PAKKE HORNBILL FEST AS ‘STATE FESTIVAL’

- 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**.

Key Points:

- In the PPHF festival is celebrated to the first time in 2015 to recognize the role played by the resident **Nyishi tribe** in conserving hornbills in the **Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR)**.
- The festival also provides an alternate source of income to the native people of the region who mainly relies on hunting and logging.

25TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION ON TERRESTRIAL AND SATELLITE BROADCASTING, BES EXPO 2019 HELD IN NEW DELHI



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

PM NARENDRA MODI INAUGURATES COUNTRY'S FIRST NATIONAL MUSEUM OF INDIAN CINEMA IN MUMBAI

- **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.

HARYANA ANNOUNCES SHAURYA AWARD FOR STUDENTS

- 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 the state in **1966**.
- Prize money of **Rs. 11,000** will be given to students for courageous deeds every year in a village block where the school is located under this award.
- The announcement was made by **Manohar Lal Khattar** at the first state-level function at National Police Memorial in **New Delhi**.

FIRST NATIONAL EMRS NATIONAL SPORTS MEET 2019 HELD IN HYDERABAD

- First National Level Sports Meet for the students of **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** was inaugurated by Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs at G.M.C Balayogi Stadium, Hyderabad.
- The Minister also launched an app **‘EMRS Sports Meet’** dedicated on the occasion.
- The event had participation of 1777 students comprising of 975 boys and 802 girls representing 20 States of the country.

ASSAM GOVT TO GIVE 10% QUOTA TO ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTIONS IN GENERAL CATEGORY

- Assam Cabinet headed by Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** has approved **10 per cent** quota for the economically weaker sections of the general category in government employment and government education institutes.

INDIA STEEL 2019 EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE INAUGURATED IN MUMBAI



- 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**.

Key Points:

- The theme of the event is “**Balancing Steel Demand & Supply Dynamics: Building a New India**”.
- The three-day event provided an opportunity for all the stakeholders to deliberate and identify ways to contribute towards building a robust roadmap for the further growth of the steel sector.

NITIN GADKARI TO INAUGURATE FIRST INTER-STATE BRIDGE IN J&K

- 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**.



Things to be Noted:

- The bridge also called as Keediyandiyal bridge is 1.2 km-long on the river **Ravi**
- With this bridge opened for people, the travel distance between the two inter-state destinations of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab is decreased

Important facts about Jammu and Kashmir:

- Capital: Srinagar (Summer), Jammu (Winter)
- Districts 22
- Chief Minister: Vacant (presidential rule)
- Governor: Satya Pal Malik

FLAMINGO FESTIVAL IN ANDHRA PRADESH

- A visual treat for birdwatchers began. The Flamingo Festival, kicked-off at **Pulicat Lake and Nellapattu in Sullurpet mandal, Andhra Pradesh**.
- Flamingo Festival is a **12-year-long tradition** of the **region**. The highlight of this fest is the sight of colourful migratory birds from **Siberia** that visit the region for nesting and breeding.



NAGPUR, THE CITY OF ORANGES TO HOST THE 4-DAY 2ND WORLD ORANGE FESTIVAL FOR THE FIRST TIME

- The **4-day 2nd world Orange Festival** commenced in **Nagpur**, the city of oranges, for the **first** time.
- The festival will also showcase and brand the exquisite fruit in order to boost its export.
- The festival is presented by **UPL** and hosted by **Maharashtra Tourism**.



INDIA STEEL 2019 EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE INAUGURATED IN MUMBAI

- The fourth edition **International Exhibition & Conference on Steel Industry**, India Steel 2019 Exhibition and Conference was organized 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”**.
- The three-day event provided an opportunity for all the stakeholders to deliberate and identify ways to contribute to building a robust roadmap for the further growth of the steel sector.

7. International Affairs



U.S ISRAEL QUIT UNESCO CITING BIAS

- **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.



Key Points:

- 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.
- Both the countries filed the notice to withdraw from the organization in **2017**.
- The United states, one of the founding member of **UNESCO** has demanded “**Fundamental Reform**” in the organization.
- USA and Israel stopped paying dues to UNESCO after Palestine which is disputes part of Israel was voted in as a member state of **UNESCO in 2011**. So this move will not affect UNESCO because it has been already dealing with funding slash ever since 2011.

SHEIKH HASINA WINS THIRD TERM AS PM OF BANGLADESH

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s alliance won Bangladesh’s election with a thumping majority giving her a third straight term.



Key Points:

- The alliance dominated by her **Awami League**, won **287 of the 298 seats** for which results have been declared, the commission said. There are **300 constituencies in the country**.
- The main opposition **Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)**, which boycotted the last poll in 2014, **won just 6 seats**.

About Bangladesh:

- Capital: Dhaka
- Currency: Taka
- President: Mohammad Abdul Hamid

UAE TO REOPEN DAMASCUS EMBASSY AFTER 7 YEARS

- The United Arab Emirates reopened its embassy in Syria’s capital, Damascus for the first time in seven years, a reflection of improved relations between **Bashar Assad** and some of his **Arab foes** as the war winds down.
- **UAE’s** charge **d’affaires Abdul-Hakim Naimi** visited the embassy and witnessed his country’s flag being raised again on the compound in central **Damascus**.
- The move provides a major boost to Assad, whose forces have won a series of military victories in recent years with the help of Russia and Iran.
- **Sudan’s President Omar Bashir** visited **Damascus** earlier this month, becoming the first **Arab** head of state to visit **Syria** since the start of the war.

JAIR BOLSONARO TAKES OATH AS NEW PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL

- Jair Bolsonaro was sworn in as Brazil’s President in a ceremony at Brazil’s National Congress Building. Bolsonaro is a former Army captain and admirer of the country’s **1964-1985 military dictatorship**.
- Bolsonaro, 63, was a seven-term fringe congressman who rode a wave of anti-establishment anger to become Brazil’s first far-right president since a military dictatorship gave way to civilian rule three decades ago.

IRAN APPROVED ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING BILL FOR EASE OF BUSINESS

- 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)**.

Background:

- 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.

Iran:

- Capital: Tehran.
- Currency: Iranian rial.

ISRAEL, US SUCCESSFULLY TEST BALLISTIC MISSILE INTERCEPTORS

- The **Israel and US** countries have successfully tested ballistic missile interceptors deployed at Israeli airbases.
- The tests came a day after the latest deadly exchange of fire between **Israel and Iranian forces operating in Syria**.
- The Arrow 3 interceptor system, designed to shoot down missiles above the atmosphere, was deployed at air force bases across Israel two years ago.

USEFUL INFO

Israel Capital	Jerusalem
Israel Currency	New Shekel
Israel President	Reuven Rivlin
USA Capital	Washington, D.C.
USA Currency	US Dollar
USA President	Donald Trump

PAKISTAN TO ISSUE BONDS TO RAISE CAPITAL IN CHINA

- The government of Pakistan has decided to launch Panda Bonds to raise loans from Chinese capital markets.
- Launching of Panda Bonds is part of Pakistan's plans to move towards giving the Chinese currency, a status at par with that enjoyed by the US dollar. The interest rates and the size of the bonds would be decided at a later stage.
- The Finance Ministry of Pakistan has said that the Panda Bonds are part of its multipronged approach for bridging the foreign financing needs and building foreign exchange reserves.
- Panda Bonds will help Pakistan to diversify the investor base of capital market issuance and provide a source of raising renminbi.

Panda Bonds

- Panda bonds are Chinese renminbi-denominated bonds from a non-chinese issuer, sold in the people's **Republic of China**. The first two Panda bonds were issued in **October 2005** by the International finance Corporation and the **Asian Development Bank** on the same day.
- The Philippines issued its inaugural Panda bonds in **2018**. It was the first **ASEAN member** to issue Panda bonds.

THE 7TH ASEAN-INDIA TOURISM MINISTERS MEETING AT HA LONG CITY, VIETNAM

- 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**.



Key points :

- The Meeting was also attended by the **Tourism Ministers of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand**.
- Tourism Ministers welcomed the decision of ASEAN-India Informal summit which was held on 15 November 2018 and lauched **ASEAN-India Tourism Cooperation Year 2019**. Earlier Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi also proposed to designate 2019 as the ASEAN-India Tourism Year.

INDIA RANKS 79TH, JAPAN TOPS LIST OF MOST POWERFUL PASSPORTS: HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX

- **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** out of 190 countries

FOR FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, MALAYSIA’S MONARCH, SULTAN MUHAMMAD V, STEPPED DOWN BEFORE COMPLETION OF TENURE



- **Malaysia’s** monarch **Sultan Muhammad V** resigned, as the **15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong**, from the throne before completing their five-year tenure for the first time in Malaysia’s history.
- The selection of the next king can be decided by a vote in the Council of Rulers, made up of all nine royal households, who takes turns to sit on the throne.

Malaysia:

- Capital: Kuala Lumpur.
- Currency: Malaysian ringgit.

UNESCO NAMES RIO DE JANEIRO AS WORLD CAPITAL OF ARCHITECTURE FOR 2020



- **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.

Key points :

- **Rio de Janeiro** becomes the first city to receive the title under a program launched by **UNESCO** and International Union of Architects (UIA) after defeating **Paris and Melbourne**.
- World Capital of Architecture is intended to become the global forum for debates on challenges of **Culture, Cultural Heritage, Urban Planning and architecture**.

INDIA UP ONE PLACE ON GLOBAL TALENT COMPETITIVENESS RANKING AT 80TH: SURVEY

- **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.



EGYPT OPENED WEST ASIA'S LARGEST CATHEDRAL IN ITS NEW ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITAL

- Egypt opened West Asia's largest cathedral in its **New Administrative Capital**, 45 kms away from its capital, Cairo.
- 1. **President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi** inaugurated the newly-built Cathedral of Nativity on the eve of **Coptic Christmas**.
- 2. Unlike December 25, **Coptic Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ** on January 7, following the **Coptic calendar**.

Egypt:

- Capital: Cairo.
- Currency: Egyptian pound.

INDIA RANKS AT 54TH POSITION AMONG MOST INNOVATIVE COUNTRIES: BLOOMBERG 2019 INNOVATIVE INDEX

- For the first time, 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**.



CHINA PASSED LAW TO SINICIZE AND MAKE ISLAM COMPATIBLE WITH SOCIALISM

- **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.

Background:

- In 2018, China held over a million people of the ethnic **Uighur and Muslim** minorities in prison in the Xingjian region.

China:

- Capital: Beijing.
- Currency: Renminbi.

WORLD'S LONGEST 3D-PRINTED CONCRETE BRIDGE OPENS IN CHINA

- The world's longest **3D-printed concrete pedestrian bridge**, which is 26.3 metre-long and 3.6 metre-wide, opened in China's Shanghai.
- The bridge is made out of 44 hollowed-out 3D printed concrete blocks which were printed by the robotic arms in a span of 19 days.
- The newly-opened bridge has a technology that supplies data which also includes vibrating wire stress sensors.

8. Other News



1. INITIATIVES FOR IMPROVING QUALITY OF EDUCATION

- The Central Government has launched the following mechanisms for improving the quality of education:

(A) Integrated Scheme for School Education-Samagra Shiksha

- Integrated Scheme for School Education-Samagra Shiksha has been launched by subsuming three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), **Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)** and **Teacher Education (TE)**.
- The Samagra Shiksha scheme focuses on improving the Quality of education by providing support for different interventions like; in-service training of teachers and schools heads, conduct of achievement surveys at National and State level, provision of textbooks as per Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, remedial teaching for academically weaker students, ICT and digital initiatives etc.

(B) Rashtriya Aavishkar Abhiyan

- Rashtriya Aavishkar Abhiyan motivates and engages children of the age group from 6-18 years in Science, Mathematics and Technology through observation, experimentation, inference weaker students, ICT and digital initiatives etc.

ABOUT RASTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJNA:

- 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.
- It aims to achieve 4% annual growth in agriculture through development of Agriculture and its allied sectors.
- The funds are released to the State Governments/UTs on the basis of projects approved in the State Level Sanctioning Committee Meeting (SLSC) headed by the Chief Secretary of the concerned State.
- The Cabinet has approved (as on 1st November 2017) for continuation of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme (State Plans) – **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana-Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR)** for three years i.e. **2017-18 to 2019-20 with a financial allocation of Rs. 15,722 crores.**

(C) e PATHSHALA

- e PATHSHALA has been launched as a single point repository of e resources containing NCERT textbooks and various other learning resources.
- e PATHSHALA has been developed for showcasing and disseminating all educational resources including textbooks, audio, video, periodicals, and a variety of other print and non-print materials.

(D) SWAYAM

- SWAYAM portal offers various online courses for school education and higher education, NCERT is providing course modules in the SWAYAM portal.

(E) SWAYAM PRABHA DTH-TV

- SWAYAM PRABHA DTH-TV has been launched to provide learning opportunities for the students, as per their convenience. Everyday four hour fresh slot is telecast and repeated six times in 24 hours.

PARIVESH

- **Parivesh** is a web-based **workflow** application which has been developed for **online** submission and monitoring of the proposals submitted by the proponents for seeking Environment, Forest, Wildlife and **CRZ** Clearances from Central, State and district level authorities.
- **Parivesh** automates the entire tracking of proposals which includes online submission of a new proposal, editing/ updating the details of proposals and displays status of the proposals at each stage of the **workflow**.

(F) Diksha Portal

- Diksha Portal has been launched to provide a digital platform for teachers to learn and train themselves and connect with teacher community.

2. INITIATIVES TO MONITOR THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION**(A) Shaala Siddhi**

- Shaala Siddhi is a School Standards and Evaluation Framework which enables the schools to self evaluate based on seven key domains. It has been developed by National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA).

(B) PINDICS

- Performance Indicators for Elementary School Teachers (PINDICS) is a framework for assessing teacher performance and providing constructive feedback for further improvement. It has been developed by NCERT.

ABOUT SAUBHAGYA SCHEME:

- Launched: September 25, 2017.
- Under Ministry of Power.
- Purpose: to achieve the goal of universal household electrification in the country by 31st March 2019.
- The total outlay of the project: Rs. 16, 320 crore.
- The Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) was the nodal agency for the operationalisation of the scheme throughout the country.

ABOUT MISSION SHAKTI



ARUNACHAL TOUCHES RECORD HIGH REVENUE GENERATION

- The **Arunachal Pradesh** government has created a record of a total revenue generation of Rs 1,598.49 crore in 2017-18, reaching a new high in the **last 30 years**.

THE ACCIDENTAL PRIME MINISTER

- The movie **“The Accidental Prime Minister”** revolves around **Dr Manmohan Singh**, the economist and politician who served as the Prime Minister of India from 2004 to 2014 under the United Progressive Alliance.

ABOUT BIJU SWASTHYA KALYAN YOJANA (BSKY)

- 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.
- The scheme received an overwhelming response and till now **over 2.25 crore** people have availed free treatment under this scheme.

9. Tamilnadu Affairs



TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT SEEKS FUNDS FOR TRANSFORMING NON-CMA

- The State government has submitted proposals for transforming areas other than **Chennai Metropolitan Area**, to the Asian Development Bank seeking financial assistance.
- The Government has formulated a comprehensive housing project called '**Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project**' to transform slums in **Chennai, Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram** Districts with **World Bank** funding assistance.
- The State has been a forerunner in providing houses to the rural poor through the '**Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme**' supplementing the efforts under the '**Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin)**.'

LESS THAN 25 STUDENTS IN 8909 GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

S. No	District rank	No of students
1	Salem	Below 450
2	Vellore	451
3	Ramanadhapuram	420
4	Sivagangai	417
5	Tiruppur	409
6	Dindugal	385
7	Tirunelveli	371
8	Erode	355

AIR CHENNAI TO HOST 'KAVI SAMMELAN'

- All India Radio will organize a poetry fest, All India **Kavi Sammelan**, on January 10 in **Chennai**.
- Poets from all over the country would present composition in their respective languages on the occasion.
- Tamil Nadu **Governor Banwarilal Purohit** inaugurate the event.

Linguistic harmony

- Introduced in **1956**, the **Sarva Bhasha Kavi Sammelan** (National Symposium of Poets) is a creative platform for national integration and linguistic harmony through mutual interaction and coordinated presentation of the best contemporary poetry of all Indian languages.

FIRST LNG IMPORT TERMINAL OF IOC COMMISSIONED IN ENNORE, TAMIL NADU

- **Indian Oil Corp (IOC)**, the nation's biggest oil firm, announced commission of its first **Rs 5,151-crore** worth Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import terminal in **Ennore, Tamil Nadu**.
 1. This is the first LNG import terminal IOC has built on its own and will become operational by the end of January 2019.
 2. IOC holds 95 per cent stake in the Ennore LNG import terminal. Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) has 5 per cent.
 3. The firm is also working on laying a **1,385 km** natural gas pipeline originating from the **Ennore** terminal to **Nagapattinam** in **Tamil Nadu** via **Puducherry**.
 4. Also, branch pipelines will be laid in Madurai, Tuticorin, and Bengaluru to meet the LNG demand.

TN BULL TAMING EVENT ENTERS WORLD RECORD



- Jallikattu' as a symbol of the **valour and courage of the Tamil people**. A grand **"jallikattu" (bull-taming)** event held in **Pudukottai** 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**.

KALLAKURICHI 33RD DISTRICT OF TAMIL NADU

- Chief Minister Edappadi K.Palaniswamy announced the creation of a new district by bifurcating Villupuram district.
- Kallakurichi will be the headquarters of the new district and its creation has increased the number of districts in Tamil Nadu to 33.
- Villupuram, with 1,099 panchayats, was the biggest district in the State.
- Villupuram district, which was bifurcated from the erstwhile South Arcot district in 1993, has 11 Assembly segments.

TAMIL NADU DEFENCE INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR TO BE LAUNCHED ON 20 JANUARY

- The **Tamil Nadu defence industrial corridor** is set to be launched as part of the **Centre's efforts** to build an indigenous **defence production ecosystem**. One of the reasons for Tamil Nadu being chosen for the corridor is that it is already a major manufacturing State and has a major auto components hub.
- The corridor will be formally launched by **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** at Tiruchirappalli on January 20. Two defence corridors, one in Tamil Nadu and the other in Uttar Pradesh, were announced in the last budget.

STATE TO GIVE RS 1,000 CASH SUPPORT PER FAMILY, GIFT HAMPER FOR PONGAL

- The Governor announced that the **Rs 1,000** cash support would be applicable to the entire State, except **Tiruvarur district** where the Model Code of Conduct is in force ahead of the by-election to the **Tiruvarur Assembly** constituency on January 28.

TAMIL NADU HAS INTRODUCED SMART CARDS FOR THE DRIVING LICENCE APPLICANTS

- **Tamil Nadu** has launched **smart cards** in place of printed documents for the **driving licence applicants and vehicle owners** in the city. The smart card, embedded with a computer chip, will have several security features.
- The smart card system for licences and vehicle registration was inaugurated by **Transport Minister M.R. Vijayabhaskar** at a function at the **Regional Transport Office South Chennai, Thiruvanmiyur**.
- The smart card would be produced according to the specifications issued by the Centre and will have two sections, **VIZ (Visual Interpretation Zone) and MRZ (Machine Readable Zone)**. The smart card has several security

2-DAY GLOBAL INVESTORS SUMMIT BEGINS IN CHENNAI



- The two-day Global Investors Summit, being organised by **Tamil Nadu government, held in Chennai**.
- It is being participated by about five thousand delegates from industries in **India and abroad**.
- In the inaugural event, Adani Group Chief Executive Officer **Karan Adani committed an investment of 12 thousand crore rupees in tis Kattuppalli port** expansion project.
- The Ford motors inaugurated it's **Global Technology and Business Facility** at its sprawling Sholinganallur campus in Chennai.
- More investment commitments are expected to be made during the ongoing two-day interactions.

INDIAN NAVY INDUCTED TWO FAST INTERCEPTOR CRAFT (FIC) INTO ITS FLEET 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.

TAMIL NADU RELEASED STARTUP AND INNOVATIVE 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.

Key Points to be Noted :

- The government formed a **5-point plan** to implement the policies which include creating ecosystems, ensure resources availability for Startup ecosystem, enable skill development and job creation, support social entrepreneurship and establish global accessibility and partnerships.
- The State is to set up Tamil Nadu Startup Fund of Funds for Rs.250 crore which is to be registered as an **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** managed by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), for investment in startups and MSMEs.

KILPAUK MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL GETS STATE-OF-THE-ART BREAST CLINIC

- The first-of-its-kind in India machinery has three advanced forms of screening techniques that includes **tomosynthesis**, contrast **mammography** and stereo biopsy.
- The installed machinery will be open for public from January 2019 at a **breastclinic in Kilpauk Medical College**.
- Tomosynthesis, also known as **three-dimensional (3-D) mammography**, uses a low-dose **x-ray system** and computer reconstructions to create three-dimensional images of the breasts.
- As the process uses volume-based mammography, the imaging can be more efficient and clear in diagnosing the cancer cells

10. General Knowledge



1) MAJOR CLASSIFICATION OF INDIAN SOILS

1. Alluvial soil [43%]
2. Red soil [18.5%]
3. Black / regur soil [15%]
4. Arid / desert soil
5. Laterite soil
6. Peaty Soil
7. Forest soil
8. mountain soil

Alluvial soil:

Mostly available soil in India (about 43%) which covers an area of 143 sq.km. Widespread in northern plains and river valleys. In peninsular-India, they are mostly found in deltas and estuaries. New alluvium is termed as Khadar and old alluvium is termed as Bhangar.

Colour: Light Grey to Ash Grey.

Texture: Sandy to silty loam or clay.

Red soil:

Seen mainly in low rainfall area. Also known as Omnibus group..

Colour: Red because of Ferric oxide. The lower layer is reddish yellow or yellow.

Texture: Sandy to clay and loamy.

Black soil / regur soil:

Regur means cotton – best soil for cotton cultivation. Most of the Deccan is occupied by Black soil. It is Mature soil. It has High water retaining capacity. Soils are Swells and will become sticky when wet and shrink when dried. Self-ploughing is a characteristic of the black soil as it develops wide cracks when dried.

Colour: Deep black to light black.

Laterite soil:

Name from Latin word 'Later' which means Brick. It becomes so soft when wet and so hard when dried. In the areas of high temperature and high rainfall.

Colour: Red colour due to iron oxide.

Desert / arid soil:

Seen under Arid and Semi-Arid conditions.

Colour: Red to Brown.

Texture: Sandy

Peaty / marshy soil:

Areas of heavy rainfall and high humidity. Growth of vegetation is very less. A large quantity of dead organic matter/humus which makes the soil

alkaline

Mountain soil:

Forest soil:

Regions of high rainfall. Humus content is less and thus the soil is acidic.

In the mountain regions of the country. Immature soil with low humus and acidic.

Understand the Different types of soils

Types of Soils	States where found	Rich in	Lacks in	Crops grown
Alluvial	Mainly found in the plains of Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, UP, Bihar, Jharkhand etc.	Potash and Lime	Lime Nitrogen and Phosphorous	Large variety of rabi and kharif crops such as wheat, rice, sugarcane, cotton, jute etc
Black (Regur soil)	Deccan plateau- Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Valleys of Krishna and Godavari. Lime	Lime, Iron, Magnesia and Alumina, Potash	Phosphorous, Nitrogen and organic matter	Cotton, sugarcane, jowar, tobacco, wheat, rice etc.
Red	Eastern and southern part of the deccan plateau, Orissa, Chattisgarh and southern parts of the middle Ganga plain.	Iron and Potash	Nitrogen, Phosphorous and humus.	Wheat, rice, cotton, sugarcane and pulses
Laterite	Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Orissa hills.	Western Rajastan, north Gujarat and southern Punjab	Organic matter, Nitrogen, Phosphate and Calcium	Cashewnuts, tea, coffee, rubber

Arid and Desert	Western Rajasthan, north Gujarat and southern Punjab	Soluble salts, phosphate	Humus, Nitrogen	Only drought resistant and salt tolerant crops such as barley, Grape, cotton, millets maize and pulses
Saline and Alkaline	Western Gujarat, deltas of eastern coast, Sunderban areas of West Bengal, Punjab and Haryana	Sodium, Potassium, Magnesium	Nitrogen and Calcium	Unfit for agriculture

List of Nutrient Sources and their Deficiency diseases

Nutrients	Constituent	Deficiency Diseases	Sources
Vitamin A	Retinol, Retinoic Acid, Beta-Carotene	Night-blindness, Healing epithelial cells, Normal development of teeth and bones	Carrots, Papaya, Milk, Cheese, Fish Liver Oil, Green Vegetables etc.
Vitamin B1	Thiamine	Beriberi	Brewer's Yeast, Whole Grain, Oatmeal, Legumes, Peanuts, Dried Soybean, Sunflower Seeds etc.
Vitamin B2	Riboflavin	Ariboflavinosis	Beef Liver, Lamb, Milk, Mushroom, Spinach, Almonds etc.
Vitamin B3	Niacin or Nicotinic Acid	Pellagra	Tuna, Chicken, Turkey, Mushrooms, Bacon, Broccoli, Veal etc.
Vitamin B5	Pantothenic Acid	Acne, Paresthesia	Chicken Liver, Sunflower Seeds, Salmon, Avocados, Corn, Broccoli, Mushroom etc.

Vitamin B6	Pyridoxine, Pyridoxal, Pyridoxamine	Dandruff-like eruptions, Pink eye, Epilepsy	Potatoes & other starchy vegetables, Fruit (other than citrus) etc.
Vitamin B7	Biotin	Growth & Neurological Disorders in Infants	Raw Egg Yolk, Liver, Peanuts, Yeast, Whole-wheat Bread, Cheddar Cheese, Pork etc.
Vitamin B9	Folic Acid	Macrocytic Anaemia, Birth Defects	Dark Leafy Greens like Spinach, Asparagus, Broccoli, Citrus Fruits, Beans, Peas, Lentils, Avocados etc
Vitamin B12	Various Cobalamins	Macrocytic Anaemia, Memory Loss, Pernicious Anaemia, Mania, Psychosis, Paralysis	Seafood, Beef, Chicken, Eggs etc.
Vitamin C	L-Ascorbic Acid	Scurvy	Amla, Guava, Chillis, Kiwi, Broccoli, Orange, Papaya, Lemon, etc.
Vitamin D	Calciferol (D2) & Cholecalciferol (D3)	Rickets, Osteomalacia, Needed for absorption of calcium from small intestines, Calcification of the skeleton	Sunlight, Mushrooms, Alfalfa, Fish Liver Oils, Cooked Egg Yolk, etc.
Vitamin E	Tochopherols & Tocotrienols	Red Blood Cell Destruction, Ataxia, Retinopathy, Peripheral Neuropathy, Reproductive Failure	Wheat Germ Oil, Canola Oil, Sunflower Oil, Almond Oil, Hazelnuts, Peanuts etc.
Essential Fatty Acids	Omega 3 (Alpha Linolenic Acid) and Omega 6 (Linolenic Acid)	Several bodily processes afflicted, Skin Ailments	Fish Oils, Flaxseed Oil, Hemp Oil, Olive Oil, Pumpkin Seeds, Leafy Vegetables etc.
Vitamin K	Phylloquinone (K1), Menaquinone (K2)	Lack of Clotting of Blood, Lack of Tissue Renewal	Green Leafy Vegetables etc.

Iron		Anaemia, Arrhythmia	Red Meat, Seafood, Egg Yolk, Bananas, Apple, Green Vegetables, Broccoli, Beans, Pumpkin Seeds etc.
Potassium		High Blood Pressure, Arrhythmia, Muscle Weakness, Myalgia, Muscle Cramps, Constipation, Respiratory Depression, Paralysis	Meat, Milk, Fruits, Vegetables, Whole Grains etc.
Calcium		Osteoporosis, Hypocalcemia, Osteopenia	Milk and Milk Products, Eggs, Wheatgrass etc.
Magnesium		Deterioration of Metabolism & Cellular Functioning, Heart Attacks, Insulin Resistance	Nuts and Seeds, Green Vegetables, Dark Chocolate, Whole Grains etc.
Sodium		Cognitive Impairment, Headaches, Nausea, Seizure, Coma, Electrolytic Imbalance	Salt, Fish, Meat, Vegetables etc.
Chlorine		alkalosis	Salt, Milk, Meats, Vegetables etc.
Phosphorous		hypophosphatemia , rickets in children and osteomalacia in adults	Meat, Fish, Poultry, Eggs, Milk, Bananas etc.
Iodine		Goitre, Cretinism, Deterioration of Metabolism & Cellular Functioning,	Iodised Salt, Sea Food, Green Vegetables, Raw Milk, Eggs etc.
Protein		Kwashiorkor	Meat, Seafood, Eggs, Pulses & Legumes, Milk & Milk Products etc.
Protein-Energy		Marasmus	Grains, Pulses & Legumes, Meat, Milk & Milk Products, Eggs, Seafood etc.

11. Practice Questions



- 1) Name the students' satellite that was launched by ISRO on January 24, 2019?
 - a) Kalamsat b) Microsat-R
 - c) Cartosat-2 d) SmallSat
- 2) Flamingo festival in -----?
 - A.Andhra Pradesh
 - B.Maharashtra
 - C.Arunachal Pradesh
 - D.Bihar
- 3) Which state government to give 10% quota to economically weaker sections in general category
 - A.Assam B.Tamil Nadu
 - C.Kerala D.West Bengal
- 4) Who is to inaugurate Indian Science Congress-2019 in Punjab on Jan 3?
 - A.Shri Narendra Modi
 - B.Shri Arun Jaitley
 - C.Shri Suresh Prabhu
 - D.Shri Venkaiah Naidu
- 5) US Adventurer Completes 1st Unaided Solo Trek Across -----?
 - A.Antarctica
 - B.Saudi Arabia
 - C.Indonesia
 - D.Denmark
- 6) PM Modi inaugurated 6th International Rice Research Institute in _____.
 - A.Ranchi B.Varanasi
 - C.Bhubaneswar D.Kolkata
- 7) Who becomes first Indian wicket-keeper to claim 20 catches in Test series?
 - A.Rishabh Pant
 - B.Ajinkya Rahane
 - C.Naman Ojha
 - D.Dinesh Karthik
- 8) Who has been appointed as Chairman of Railway Board?
 - A.Ratan Lal
 - B.Lalit Chandra Trivedi
 - C.Ashwani Lohani
 - D.Vinod Kumar Yadav

- 9) Who was named the captain of the ICC women's T20I team of the year?
A.Harmanpreet Kaur
B.Ellyse Perry
C.Smriti Mandhana
D.Natalie Sciver
- 10) Who won the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award for the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year?
A.Sophie Devine
B.Suzie Bates
C.Smriti Mandhana
D.Harmanpreet Kaur
- 11) Which cricket player equals Ganguly's record with 11th away test win as captain?
A.Virat kohli
B.Rahul Dravid
C.Sourav Ganguly
D.Ravichandran Ashwin
- 12) Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Country's First National Museum of Indian Cinema in -----?
A.Mumbai
B.Chennai
C.Hyderabad
D.New Delhi
- 13) National Nritya Shiromani Award 2019 for -----?
A.Shweta B.Vidhya
C.Anitha D.Anindita
- 14) Which state government created an Adhyatmik Vibhag(spiritual department) ?
A.Madhya Pradesh
B.Andhra Pradesh
C.Tamil Nadu
D.Kerala
- 15) Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched Ujjwala sanitary napkin initiative in -----?
A.Odisha B.Tamil Nadu
C.West Bengal D.Bihar
- 16) Which of the following has the most volcanic body in the solar system?
A.Io, Jupiter's moon
B.Phobos, Mars' moon
C.Titan, Saturn's moon
D.Deimos, Mars' moon
- 17) Who received the Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja National Award in Literature?
A.Anuradha Roy
B.Ananth Padmanabhan
C.Jayanta Vikram
D.Manoj Das
- 18) Which country ranked first as per the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)?
A.Lithuania B.Morocco
C.Sweden D.Ireland

- 19) Jair Bolsonaro takes Oath As New President of -----?
A. Brazil B. Saudi Arabia
C. Pakistan D. Indonesia
- 20) Ramakant Achrekar who passed away recently is associated with _____.
A. Football B. Cricket
C. Athletics D. Gymnastics
- 21) Which ministry approved UP's proposal of renaming Allahabad as Prayagraj?
A. Home Minister
B. Finance Minister
C. Defence Minister
D. External Affairs minister
- 22) Where was the 106th edition of the Indian Science Congress held?
A. Haryana B. Rajasthan
C. New Delhi D. Punjab
- 23) Who has been conferred with the National Geospatial Award for Excellence-2017?
A. Jayanta Kumar Ghosh
B. Debabrata Basu
C. K.R. Parthasarathy
D. Rajendra Bhatia
- 24) What is the theme of the 106th edition of the Indian Science Congress?
A. Innovative Policies
Science governance
B. Futute India – Science and Technology
C. Sustainable Development: From vision to transition
D. Science, Management, and Innovation
- 25) Which of the following Atomic Power Station set world record for longest uninterrupted operation?
A. Kudankulam Atomic Power Station
B. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station
C. Kaiga Atomic Power Station
D. Narora Atomic Power Station
- 26) Which of the following Chinese space probe touched down on the far side of the moon?
A. Yinghuo-1 lunar probe
B. Chang'e 5-T1 lunar probe
C. Chang'e-4 lunar probe
D. Chang'E-3 lunar probe
- 27) ----- appointed as Chairman Of Ordnance Factory Board?
A. Saurabh Kumar
B. Dinesh Karthik
C. Senthil Kumar
D. Dinesh kumar

- 28) Which of the following city will host the Global Healthcare Summit 2019?
A.Mumbai B.Kolkata
C.Hyderabad D.New Delhi
- 29) Which of the following country successfully tested its most powerful non-nuclear weapon?
A.Russia B.US
C.UK D.China
- 30) Who is appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner?
A.Sushma Singh
B.Sudhir Bhargava
C.Deepak Sandhu
D.Bimal Julka
- 31) What is the name of the Lunar rover which was sent by China's space agency?
A.Chang'e 4 B.Yutu 2
C.Hayabusa2 D.Lunar-A
- 32) Chandrayaan-2 mission launch most likely in ----?
A.Feb B.March
C.June D.July
- 33) Who Becomes Worlds 1st Female Amputee To Scale Antarcitas Highest Peak?
A.Arunima Sinha
B.Dihal Singh
C.Naresh Iyer
D.Suresh Karthick
- 34) Which union minister is to address IIT Bombay event?
A.Nitin Gadkari
B.Arun Jaitley
C.Suresh Prabhu
D.Shweta Singh
- 35) Who won the Best Actor Award in the drama category at the 76th Golden Globe Awards 2019?
A.Lucas Hedges
B.Willem Dafoe
C.Bradley Cooper
D.Rami Malek
- 36) When was the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme launched?
A.March 2005
B.February 2006
C.April 2007
D.January 2006
- 37) How many days the people be employed under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme?
A.50 B.80 C.100 D.125
- 38) Who heads the BJP's "sankalp patra" (manifesto) committee?
A. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari
B. Defence Minister Sushma Swaraj
C. Union Minister Rajnath Singh
D. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley

- 39) Which of the following Indian mountaineer has now become the World's first female?
A.Arunima Sinha
B.Malavath Purna
C.Shivangi Pathak
D.Sangeeta Bahl
- 40) India won first-ever cricket Test series in Australia. Who was the Man of the Match?
A.Virat Kohli
B.Rohit Sharma
C.Cheteshwar Pujara
D.Jasprit Bumrah
- 41) Indian Panorama Film Festival begins in -----?
A.New Delhi B.Chennai
C.Hyderabad D.Patna
- 42) Which journalist conferred with lifetime achievement award?
A.Dinu Randive
B.Barkha Dutt
C.Bob Wood ward
D.Carl Benstein
- 43) Which state Tops ACIs Ease Of Doing Business Index?
A.Andhra Pradesh
B.Tamil Nadu
C.Kerala
D.Odisha
- 44) Who is First Tycoon to be named "Fugitive Economic Offender"?
A.Vijay Mallya
B.Naresh kumar
C.Dinesh Karthick
D.Jaikumar rajan
- 45) Nine day long International Kite Festival kicks off in -----?
A.Chennai
B.Hyderabad
C.Secunderabad
D.Ahmedabad
- 46) Which of the following India-born Woman joined International Monetary Fund (IMF) as 1st woman Chief Economist?
A.Geeta Menon
B.Gita Gopinath
C.Rashmi Sinha
D.Ranji Nagaswami
- 47) Who is Reinstated As CBI Chief By Supreme Court ?
A.Alok Verma
B.Dinesh Kumar
C.Vivek Rajan
D.Ganesh kumar
- 48) How many district are there in Tamil Nadu?
A.29 B.31 C.33 D.35

- 49) What is the name of the new planet that NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) found?
A.HD 21749a B.HD 21749b
C.HA 21749b D.HB 21749b
- 50) Which of the following bill deals with 10% quota for economically weaker sections in general category?
A. Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill 2019
B. Constitution (124th Amendment) Bill 2018
C. Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill 2019
D. Constitution (124th Amendment) Bill 2019
- 51) Who Becomes 1st Indian to Head Global Solar Council?
A.Pranav R Mehta
B.Suresh kumar
C.Naresh Kumar
D.Rajnath Singh
- 52) ISRO aims to send human astronauts to space by the year of -----?
A.2021 B.2025
C.2026 D.2036
- 53) Which political leader pitches for Women Reservation Bill?
A.R S Sekar
B.Naresh Kumar
C.K Kavitha
D.Vidya Balan
- 54) Twenty fifth Edition of Partnership Summit Held in -----?
A.Mumbai B.Chennai
C.Hyderabad D.Secunderabad
- 55) India's longest single lane steel cable suspension bridge was named _____.
A.Mandovi Bridge
B.Netravati Bridge
C.Dikhow Bridge
D.Byorung Bridge
- 56) India's longest 300-metre single lane steel cable suspension bridge was inaugurated at _____.
A.Punjab
B.Uttar Pradesh
C.Arunachal Pradesh
D.Assam
- 57) Who won the girls' U-17 badminton title at the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2019?
A.Manasi Singh
B.Taslim Mir
C.Aakarshi Kashyap
D.Gandham Rao
- 58) Which country launches new innovation initiative at Raisina Dialogue, 2019
A.USA
B.Pakistan
C.Saudi Arabia
D.Indonesia

- 59) Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore launched National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 in -----?
A.New Delhi B.Chennai
C.Hyderabad D.Mumbai
- 60) ----- gives assent to The Constitution (One Hundred and third Amendment) ACT, 2019?
A.President Ram Nath Kovind
B.Shri Suresh Prabhu
C.Shri Prakash Javadekar
D.Shri Venkaiah Naidu
- 61) Who won gold in the 43rd Bombay YMCA State-level annual athletics meet in Mumbai?
A.Deep Patil
B.Aryan Somale
C.Michelle Fernandes
D.Siya Dawoor
- 62) Which mission has found how plasma particles from the solar wind make their way into the Moon's night side?
A.Chandrayaan 2
B.Chandrayaan 1
C.Apollo 16
D.Apollo 17
- 63) Fourth Meeting of CTDP Held In -----?
A.New Delhi B.Chennai
C.Hyderabad D.Pune
- 64) Who Conferred ICSI Lifetime Award?
A.Adi Godrej
B.Mukesh Ambhani
C.Nitish Suresh
D.Rajesh Sharma
- 65) SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launches ---- Iridium communications satellites?
A.Ten B.Six
C.Fourteen D.Twelve
- 66) First-ever Philip Kotler Presidential award entitled to -----?
A. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi
B. Shri Prakash Javedakar
C. Shri Suresh Prabhu
D. Shri Prithivi Sinha
- 67) Which state announced ban of Single-Use Plastic from March 1, 2019?
A.Andhra Pradesh
B.Himachal Pradesh
C.Puducherry
D.Bihar
- 68) India's largest startup ecosystem, measuring 1.8 lakh sq ft, inaugurated by -----?
A.Shri Pinarayi Vijayan
B.Shri Suresh Kumar
C.Shri Raj Kumar
D.Shri Dinesh Kumar

- 69) Which state becomes 1st state to implement 10% quota to EWS Economically Weaker sections
A.Gujarat
B.Madhya Pradesh
C.Arunachal Pradesh
D.Bihar
- 70) Union Government Launched ---- National Level Initiatives in Field Of Science Communication
A.2 B.3 C.5 D.7
71. Where will be the Global Aviation Summit 2019 held?
A.Kolkata B.New Delhi
C.Hyderabad D.Mumbai
72. First National EMRS National Sports Meet 2019 Held in -----?
A. Hyderabad
B. New Delhi
C. Secunderabad
D. Mumbai
73. Ninth International Micro Irrigation Conference Held in -----?
A.Aurangabad B.Chennai
C.Hyderabad D.Mumbai
74. Who won the title India's Youngest Grandmaster?
A.Ramesh Kumar
B.Sathish Kumar
C.D Gukesh
D.Raj Kumar
75. Who is appointed as Women's Team Coach of CWG Boxing?
A.Mary Kom
B.Pinky Rani
C.Mohammed Ali Qamar
D.Saruju Bala Devi
76. Which of the following is the Saturn's largest moon?
A.Dione B.Mimas
C.Titan D.Rhea
77. India-Myanmar Joint Training Exercise Begins In -----?
A.Chandimandir
B.Pune
C.Chennai
D.Hyderabad
78. Who honoured with 2019 Japan Prize for his contributions in Biological Production, Ecology?
A.Shri Suresh Prabhu
B.Shri Mukesh Ambhani
C.Dr. Rattan Lal
D.Shri Dinesh Gupta
79. Who Dedicates Kollam Bypass in Kerala to Nation?
A.Prime Minister Narendra Modi
B.Shri Suresh Prabhu
C.Shri Naresh singh
D.Shri Dinesh Gupta

80. Who received Gandhi Peace Prize for 2018?
A. Ralph Nader
B. Yohei Sasakawa
C. Jackson Browne
D. Omar Barghouti
81. Who inaugurated the 10th edition of the India Rubber Expo 2019 in Mumbai?
A. Shri Suresh Prabhu
B. Shri Rajesh Sharma
C. Shri Naresh Kumar
D. Shri Arun Jaitley
82. Gandhi Peace Prize Conferred for Last ----- years
A.4 B.5 C.6 D.8
- 83) Which State won the overall trophy in the Khelo India Youth Games 2019?
A. Maharashtra
B. Haryana
C. Delhi
D. Karnataka
- 84) Who was Honoured With Sansad Ratna Award?
A. MP Anurag Thakur
B. MP Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu
C. MP Thota Narasimham
D. MP Pandula Ravindra Babu
- 85) Which country got fifth position in UK Economy Rankings?
A. Japan B. Germany
C. USA D. India
- 86) Which country Central Bank announced the ban of Indian Notes above Rs 100?
A. Nepal
B. Pakistan
C. Saudi Arabia
D. Indonesia
- 87) Who has been awarded as 'Best Electoral Practices Award' in Andhra Pradesh?
A. B. Lakshmi Kantham
B. T. Baburao Naidu
C. Kartikeya Mishra
D. B. Laxmi Kantham
- 88) In which State did the Centre launch Apollo Proton Cancer Centre (APCC)?
A. Karnataka B. Uttar Pradesh
C. Gujarat D. Tamil Nadu
- 89) When is National Girl Child day celebrated in India?
A. 24th January
B. 25th January
C. 26th January
D. 27th January

- 90) Who is the Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India?
A.Sunil K.Gupta
B. S.Khuntia
C. R.S.Sharma
D.Deepak Kumar
- 91) Who is to be awarded the Ashok Chakra for the counter-insurgency operation in Kashmir?
A.Lance Naik Nazir Ahmad Wani
B.Narbahadur Thapa
C.Ummed Singh Mahra
D.Ram Prakash Roperia
- 92) Which country clones five gene-edited monkeys?
A.China B.Saudi Arabia
C.Indonesia D.Pakistan
- 93) Amul Camel Milk launched in ----
A.Gujarat
B.TamilNadu
C.Kerala
D.Andhra Pradesh
- 94) Which language writer is Krishna Sobti?
A.Hindi B.Tamil
C.English D.Marathi
- 95) Which nation has broken off all diplomatic ties with the United States?
a) Canada b) Brazil
c) Pakistan d) Venezuela
- 96) Who was named the captain of the ICC's Test and ODI teams of the year 2018?
a) Kane Williamson
b) Faf du Plessis
c) Virat Kohli
d) Rohit Sharma
- 97) Which of the following city has been named as the World Capital of Architecture for 2020?
A.Sao Paolo
B.Rio de Janeiro
C.Seoul
D.Mumbai
- 98) Who won the International Tennis Federation (ITF) women's tennis tournament in Singapore?
A.Ankita Raina
B.Arantxa Rus
C.Ivan Lendl
D.A.Raina
- 99) Who won Rosa Park Trailblazer award recently?
A.Shri Gurinder Singh Khalsa
B.Shri Suresh prabhu
C.Shri Naresh Singh
D.Shri Arun Jaitley
- 100) Which state announced extension of free health services under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana?
A.Odisha
B.Andhra Pradesh
C.Kerala
D.TamilNadu

ANSWER Key

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	A	A	A	A	B	A	D	A	C
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
A	A	D	A	A	A	D	C	A	B
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
A	D	A	B	C	C	A	C	D	B
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
B	A	A	A	D	B	C	C	A	C
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
A	A	A	A	D	B	A	C	B	D
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
A	A	A	A	D	C	B	A	A	A
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
A	B	A	A	A	A	C	A	A	A
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
B	A	A	C	C	C	A	C	A	B
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
A	A	A	A	D	A	A	D	A	C
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
A	A	A	A	D	C	B	A	A	A

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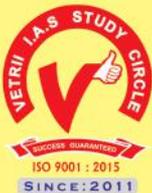


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