

# Current Affairs

(English)

For

All Upcoming Competitive Exam - 2019



**Bank**  
(SBI/IBPS/RRB),  
SSC, Railway, POST,  
Insurance, RBI

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ An ambitious web-based single-window system **Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub** (Parivesh) for **environmental clearances** will be rolled-out at state levels by **January 15**. Parivesh provides for an automated system for **submission, clearance and monitoring**.
  - ✓ 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.
- ❖ **India** is likely to achieve **100 per cent** household electrification before **2019 Republic Day**. India has already provided electricity access to **2.39 crore** out of the targeted **2.49 crore** households under the **Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana** (Saubhagya scheme).
  - ✓ India has attained the **100% electrification** of the families in **25 states** by **December 2018**. Around 10.48 lakh families are remained to be electrified in **Four states** of **Assam, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh**.
- ❖ The **Central Government** has launched the following mechanisms for the monitoring of **quality of education** in Government schools: **ShaGun Portal**.
  - ✓ About SE Shagun: In Hindi, '**Shala**' means '**School**' and '**Gunvatta**' means '**Quality**'. Additionally, '**Shagun**' means '**good omen**', which has **two parts**.
    - **One** of which is a Repository of good practices, photographs, videos, studies, newspaper articles etc on school education, State /UT wise has been developed which is in public domain.
    - The **second part**: Through Shagun, the data collection and reporting processes have been simplified; resulting in a totally transparent and efficient system.
- ❖ The **Government** gave out the **6-crore free cooking gas** (LPG) connection as the scheme to make available cleaner fuel in every household kitchens under the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana** (PMUY).
  - ✓ **PMUY** was launched in **May 2016** with tagline of **Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan** and a target to give **5 crore** connections by **March 2019**. The target was later raised to **8 crore** connections by **2021**.
- ❖ The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India** (FSSAI) notified the new **food packaging regulations**, replacing all provisions regarding the packaging requirements prescribed in the **Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011** to comply with new regulations by **July 1, 2019**.
  - ✓ Notified new packaging regulations which prohibit use of newspaper or recycled plastics for packing, wrapping, storing, transporting or dispensing articles of food products.
  - ✓ **FSSAI: Headquarter:** New Delhi, **Chairman:** Rita Teatolia.
- ❖ The **Indian Parliament** passed the **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education** (Amendment) Bill, 2018 that seeks to do away with the **no-detention policy** in schools.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** approved the **restructuring** of existing National Health Agency as "**National Health Authority**" for better implementation of the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana** (PMJAY).
  - ✓ **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana** (**Ayushman Bharat** or **AB-NHPM**): launched on **September 23, 2018** and started operation from **September 25, 2018**, the birth anniversary of **Deendayal Upadhyay**.
    - Provides free coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year.
    - The insurance cost is shared by the centre and the state mostly in the ratio of 60:40.
- ❖ **Indian Railways** form the backbone of the **Indian Transportation System**. The Railways has undertaken following measures under its **Go Green initiatives**: Ministry of Railways has planned to set up **1000 Mega Watt (MW)** solar power by **2020-21**.
- ❖ The **Government** has launched the "**Green-Ag project**: Transforming Indian Agriculture for global environmental benefits and the conservation of **critical biodiversity** and forest landscapes" in association with **Global Environment Facility** (GEF).
  - ✓ The project would be implemented in collaboration with the **Food and Agriculture Organisation** (FAO) in high-conservation-value landscapes of **five States** namely, (i) **Madhya Pradesh**: Chambal Landscape, (ii) **Mizoram**: Dampa Landscape, (iii) **Odisha**: Similipal Landscape, (iv) **Rajasthan**: Desert National Park Landscape and v) **Uttarakhand**: Corbett-Rajaji Landscape.



- ❖ The Centre has released around Rs 185 crore since financial year 2015-2016 to bridge the gap between literacy levels of tribal girls and the general female population. Another Rs 65.44 crore was released in financial year 2016-17, Rs 46.28 crore in the 2017-18 fiscal and has so far released Rs 20.36 crore in 2018-19.
- ❖ The Lok Sabha has passed the 124<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment bill to provide 10 per cent reservation in jobs and higher education for those belonging to the economically backward sections of the general category. The government aims to provide the aid of reservation to economically backward poor people who are not availing the benefit of reservation as of now.
  - ✓ Those owning more than 5 acre land will be excluded.
  - ✓ Those having a residential plot of more than 1000 square feet will not be eligible for this reservation.
  - ✓ People owning a plot more than 100 square yard in a notified municipality will also not be able to benefit from the government's latest move.
  - ✓ Those owning a plot more than 200 yards in non-notified areas will also be excluded from 10% reservation for the general class and those earning annual income of more than Rs 8 lakh per annum.
- ❖ Rail Kumbh Seva Mobile App has been launched by the North Central Railway (NCR) to help the devotees arriving in Allahabad for the Kumbh Mela.
- ❖ As per the announcement made to set up a high-level committee to review the implementation of clause 6 of the Assam Accord, the government has set up a committee headed by former Union tourism secretary M.P. Bezbaruah.
- ❖ The Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched 70-Point Grading Index to assess the quality of school education in the states.
- ❖ The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India had launched a Yarn Bank Scheme as one of the components of Power Tex India scheme with an aim to avoid fluctuation in yarn price.
  - ✓ To provide interest-free corpus fund to Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) or Consortium to enable them to purchase yarn at a wholesale rate and give the yarn at a reasonable price to the small weavers.
- ❖ The Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has released a Facebook post titled 'Benefits of the Aadhaar-where it stands today' highlighting how the efficient use of the Aadhaar based identification has aided in improving the governance and in efficient delivery of services.
  - ✓ He said that implementing Aadhaar has enabled the government to save Rs 90,000 crore until March 2018.
- ❖ Singapore based, Asia competitiveness institute (ACI) has released the Ease of Doing Business Rankings for Indian states.
  - ✓ Andhra Pradesh has topped followed by Maharashtra and Delhi.
- ❖ The Lok Sabha has passed the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Bill to set up a revamped International Arbitration Centre at New Delhi with an aim to make India the hub of arbitration.
  - ✓ Arbitration is a settlement of dispute between two parties to a contract by a neutral third party i.e. the arbitrator without resorting to court action.
- ❖ The 27<sup>th</sup> edition of New Delhi World Book Fair was held at the Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Theme: Book For Readers with special needs". The UAE's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest emirate Sharjah is the guest of honour for the New Delhi World Book Fair.
  - ✓ UAE :Capital: Abu Dhabi, Currency: Dirham.
- ❖ The Cabinet approves continuation of Rastriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram Scheme for the Period 2017-18 to 2019-2020 with budget outlay of Rs.1160 crore.
  - ✓ The Scheme aims to develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation building activities.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 106<sup>th</sup> 'Indian Science Congress-2019' from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in Lovely Professional University Jalandhar, Punjab. Government's aim is to deliver the benefits of Science & Technology to the last man in the society.
  - ✓ To be inaugurated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of ISC, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019, Children's Science Congress.
  - ✓ Third day of ISC, two-day Science Communicators Meet- 2019. On 5<sup>th</sup> January, 'Women's Science Congress.
  - ✓ Theme of ISC-2019: 'Future India: Science and Technology'.
  - ✓ Punjab: Chief Minister: Amarinder Singh, Governor: V.P Singh Badnore.
- ❖ Arunima Sinha became the world's first female amputee to climb Mount Vinson, the highest peak of Antarctica.
- ❖ The Ministry of Human Resource Development constituted a task force to look into the circumstances of reported suicides of 49 students, of residential Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) between 2013 and 2017.
  - ✓ The task force, to be headed by psychiatrist Dr. Jitendra Nagpal.
  - ✓ Apart from this, the Union Minister of Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar has announced an increase of around 5,000 seats at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas across the country.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has recently approved the establishment of a Centre for Classical Language at the Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University in Tirur, Kerala. The Ministry has communicated the decision to the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru.



- ❖ The 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Partnership Summit 2019** would be inaugurated by Vice President of India, **M Venkaiah Naidu** in **Mumbai**.
  - ✓ The **Partnership Summit 2019** will showcase India in the present landscape of an emerging “**New India**” and the “**New Global Economic Address**” like **Artificial Intelligence**, big data, agri and food processing, defence and aeronautics, renewable energy and tourism.
- ❖ Industrial body **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI)** and global consulting firm **PwC** released **India Manufacturing Barometer 2019 Report**. The report contains details about various variables of Indian Economy.
  - ✓ According to report, **12 per cent** to the **manufacturing Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** of the country from the automobiles, chemicals, electrical machinery, food processing, leather, pharmaceuticals and textiles sectors.
  - ✓ **India's economy** is projected to grow anywhere between **7.3– 7.7 per cent**. India aspiring to become a **\$5 trillion** economy in the next few years.
- ❖ The Union Environment Minister **Harsh Vardhan** launched the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**. The programme aims to tackle the challenge of **increasing pollution** in the cities and towns.
  - ✓ A **five-year action plan** with a tentative target of **20-30%** reduction in concentrations of **PM10 and PM2.5** by **2024**, with 2017 as the base year. The plan includes **102 non-attainment cities**, across **23 states** and **Union territories**.
- ❖ The **Minister for Electronics and IT (MeitY) Ravi Shankar Prasad** inaugurated the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**'s **Command and Control Centre (CCC)** and its **Centre for Excellence in Artificial Intelligence**.
  - ✓ The **Command and Control Centre** is set up as a **specialized facility** with a nationwide view of **ICT infrastructure** for effective monitoring and management of the performance & availability of all these critical services.
- ❖ The **Supreme Court** has suggested setting up of a **3-member** panel comprising of **Nandan Nilekani**, a co-founder of Infosys, and renowned computer scientist **Vijay P Bhatkar** to suggest reforms for conducting of **competitive examinations** fairly by government bodies.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** headed by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved the setting up of 3 new **AIIMS institutions**. The 3 new institutions would come up at **Vijaynagar** at Samba of **Jammu**, **Awantipora** in **Pulwama** of **Kashmir** and **Rajkot** in **Gujarat** under the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana**.
  - ✓ **PMSSY** was announced in **2003** with objectives of correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country.
  - ✓ It has two components:
    - Setting up new **AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences)**
    - Upgradation of government medical colleges in various states.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, Government of India has launched an online campaign **Web-Wonder Women** to discover and celebrate the **exceptional achievements** of women, who have been driving positive agenda of **social change** via **social media**.
- ❖ The Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** dedicated to the nation, **Gangajal project**, which will provide **Agra** with better and more assured **water supply**, at an estimated cost of **Rs.2880 crores**. Gangajal project aims to bring **140 cusecs** of **Ganga water** to **Agra**.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions** has initiated an inter-ministerial consultation note to **rename** the **Indian Forest Service** as **Indian Forest and Tribal Service**.
  - ✓ The renaming of the **IFS** to **IFTS** was suggested by the **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)** to ensure cordial **relations** between the **IFS officials** and **tribals** as both were in close contact with each other.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Industries and Commerce** had initiated the **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)** to assist the **organic producers** to tap the market which is growing steadily in the both in domestic and export segments.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** is implementing the scheme of **Rashtriya Gokul Mission** to conserve and develop indigenous **breeds** in a focused and **scientific manner**.
  - ✓ The scheme comprises of **two** components namely **National Programme for Bovine Breeding (NPBB)** and **National Mission on Bovine Productivity (NMBP)**.
  - ✓ **Budget 2019**: fund allocated **Rs 750 crore** for them under the **Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)**.
- ❖ The **All India Radio** celebrates **National Poets Conference (Sarva Bhasha Kavi Sammelan)**, was held in **Chennai**.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** chaired Union Cabinet approved creation of the post of **Vice Chancellor** for **National Rail & Transport Institute** set up in **Vadodara, Gujarat**.
- ❖ The 4<sup>th</sup> 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**.
  - ✓ **CTDP** was constituted in **July 2015**, to ensure a continuous dialogue with **State Governments/UTs** on measures for **providing International Trade** enabling environments.





- ❖ The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** decides to set up **Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (CARE)** to **refine and strengthen** research publication. The good quality Research Journals in disciplines under Social Sciences, Humanities, Languages, Arts, Culture, Indian Knowledge Systems etc., will be maintained by CARE.
  - ✓ **UGC: Headquarter:** New Delhi, **Chairman:** D.P. Singh.
- ❖ The **15<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)** was held in **Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)** from January 21 to January 23, 2019. Its theme was **"Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India"**.
  - ✓ It was organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** in association with the **government of Uttar Pradesh**.
  - ✓ PBD is celebrated on 9 January. But this time dates were shifted to allow the guests attending the event to get an opportunity to participate in the 'Kumbh Mela' at Prayagraj and to attend the Republic Day parade.
- ❖ The **Union Minister** of Housing and Urban affairs **Hardeep Singh Puri** launched the **Global Housing Technology Challenge**. The challenge is undertaken under the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY-U)**.
- ❖ The **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has given its approval for its **Rs 13,384.80 crore Sita Rama Lift Irrigation Project of Telangana**. that aims to divert Godavari river water to irrigate 2.72 lakh hectare in three districts of Telangana **Bhadrachalam, Khammam and Mahabubabad**.
- ❖ Finance Minister **Shri Arun Jaitley** and Union Minority Affairs Minister **Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** inaugurated **Hunar Haat exhibitions in New Delhi**. Hunar Haat plays an important role in national and international branding of the heritage of master artisans in India. Hunar Haat is aimed at **"Development with Dignity"** of the artisans and craftsmen from the minority communities.
- ❖ The **Women of India Organic Festival** has been organised by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** at Leisure Valley, **Chandigarh**, to celebrate and promote women farmers and **entrepreneurs** in the **organic sector** from the remotest parts of India.
- ❖ A Private Members Bill, **Right to Disconnect Bill** was introduced in the Lok Sabha by **MP Supriya Sule**. The bill **empowers** the employee with the right to **not respond** to employers' **calls, texts or emails** after office hours.
- ❖ The **Minister of State (I/C)** for Youth Affairs and Sports **Col Rajyavardhan Rathore** launched the **National Youth Parliament Festival 2019** as part of the **National Youth Day** celebrations.
- ❖ The **29<sup>th</sup> biennial Indian Paint Conference** has started in **Agra, Uttar Pradesh**. It is organized by the **Indian Paint Association (IPA)**. The theme of the Conference is **'Paints Pe Charcha-Naye Aayaam'**.
- ❖ **Ministry of Water Resources**, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India is organizing the **9<sup>th</sup> International Micro Irrigation Conference** at Aurangabad in **Maharashtra**, in association with International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (**ICID**), Indian National Committee on Surface Water (**INCSW**).
- ❖ **Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi** inaugurated **5<sup>th</sup> Regional Centre** of National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (**NIPCCD**) at Mohali, **Punjab**.
  - ✓ NIPCCD is a premier organisation devoted to promotion of voluntary action, research, training, and documentation in the overall domain of women and children development. NIPCCD already has four such Regional Centres one each at **Bangalore, Guwahati, Indore and Lucknow** besides the **Headquarter at New Delhi**.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has **drafted** a 5-year action plan called the **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction 2018-2023 (NAPDDR)** which aims to employ a multi-pronged strategy to address the problem of drug and substance abuse in the country.
- ❖ The **Commerce Ministry** announced that the **Government e Marketplace (GeM)** launched **"Womaniya on GeM"** initiative to enable **women entrepreneurs** and **women self-help groups** to sell handicrafts and handloom, accessories, etc.
- ❖ **Union Minister** for Commerce and Industry, **Suresh Prabhu** inaugurated **10<sup>th</sup> India Rubber Expo-2019** at the **Bombay Exhibition Centre in Mumbai**.
- ❖ Indian mountaineer **Satyarup Siddhanta** became the world's **youngest mountaineer** to climb the 7 highest peaks and volcanic summits across all continents after conquering **Antartica's** highest point **Mount Sidley**.
  - ✓ Satyarup achieved the unique feat at the age of **35 years** and 262 days, setting a new world record by beating Australia's **Daniel Bull** who did it at the age of **36 years** and 157 days.
- ❖ The **Election Commission of India** launched **Voter Awareness Forum (VAF)** in **New Delhi**.
  - ✓ The key objective of the Voter Awareness Forums is to promote informed and ethical electoral participation, beginning from the first step, which is voter registration.
  - ✓ **Election Commission: Headquarter:** New Delhi, **Commission Executives:** Sunil Arora.
- ❖ The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** along with **Doordarshan (DD)**, **Prasar Bharati** launched 2 science communication initiatives -**DD Science** and **India Science**.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the project **"Development of Spiritual Circuit: Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple -Aranmula-Sabarimala"** at the cost of **Rs. 92.22 crores** in Kerala, under **Swadesh Darshan Scheme** of Tourism Ministry. he also dedicated the **13-km Kollam bypass on NH 66** in Kerala to the Nation.
  - ✓ **Kerala: Chief Minister:** Pinarayi Vijayan, **Governor:** P. Sathasivam.

- ❖ The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2018 by NGO Pratham, one out of every four Class 8 students in rural India is unable to read.
- ❖ A Regional Conference on 'Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme' (DDRS) was held in Mumbai.
  - ✓ Programme Implementing Agencies including NGOs and State Government representatives from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Goa were present for the conference.
- ❖ The 1<sup>st</sup> National Level Sports Meet-2019 for the students of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) was held at G.M.C Balayogi Stadium in Gachibowli, Hyderabad.
- ❖ Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav (Saksham 2019) is an annual high intensity one-month long people-centric mega campaign, which is organised by Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The purpose of the Saksham is to sensitize the masses about conservation and efficient use of petroleum products which will lead towards better health and environment.
- ❖ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has inaugurated the National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) in Mumbai. The state-of-the-art Museum, built at a cost of Rs. 140.61 crore.
  - ✓ The National Museum of Indian Cinema will not only provide a storehouse of information to laymen but it will also help filmmakers, film students, enthusiasts and critics to know and evaluate the development of cinema as a medium of artistic expression, not only in the country but also in all parts of the world.
  - ✓ The new museum building has four exhibition halls, whose themes are:
    - Gandhi and Cinema; Technology, Creativity and Indian cinema;
    - Cinema across India; Children's Film Studio.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Museum, Yaad-e-Jallian Museum (museum on the Jallianwala Bagh and World War I), the Museum on 1857-India's first war of Independence, and Drishyakala-Museum on Indian Art within the Red Fort, New Delhi.
- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY), the flagship scheme of the Central Government for employment generation has crossed the milestone of one crore beneficiaries as on January 14, 2019.
  - ✓ PMRPY was announced on August 07, 2016 and is being implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment through the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO).
- ❖ The 4-day 2<sup>nd</sup> world Orange Festival commenced in Nagpur, the city of oranges, for the first time.
  - ✓ Maharashtra: Chief Minister: Devendra Fadnavis, Governor: C. Vidyasagar Rao.
- ❖ The Central Government has asked the states to step-up the spending under District Mineral Fund as just 24 per cent of the Rs 23,606-crore mopped up under the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) was actually spent. The Central Government has also issued directions to ensure that there is no fund diversion or leakage.
- ❖ The Biofuels are being considered an alternative to reduce the country's crude oil imports worth Rs7 lakh crore. They can also be a potential weapon to fight increasing pollution. The findings of the research by the Pune-based Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) have substantiated the potential reduction in the emissions of the carbon-di-oxide by the adoption of methanol blending.
- ❖ The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released the Tele-density data of India. Important observations from the TRAI data are listed below:
  - ✓ The private access service providers held 89.99 per cent market share of the wireless subscribers whereas BSNL and MTNL.
  - ✓ TRAI: Headquarter: New Delhi, Chairman: Ram Sewak Sharma, Secretary: Sunil K. Gupta.

## Railway Recruitment - 2019

Expected Total Vacancies

25000<sup>+</sup>

# Railway

## (Junior Engineer / NTPC)

Banking Academy

(Prescribed for All Types of Competitive Exams)

Visit us : [www.bankingacademy.co.in](http://www.bankingacademy.co.in)

New Class Starts

From Every

MONDAY

- ❖ The **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** is organising a fortnight of events named **Shehri Samridhi Utsav** all over the country, will begin from **February 1, 2019** and will go on till **February 15, 2019** with an aim to extend the outreach of **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)** to the poorest of poor and the most vulnerable.
- ❖ The Union Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the **426.60 meter** long Pre Stressed Concrete Box Girder type **Diffo bridge** over **Diffo river** on Roing-Koronu-Paya road in **Arunachal Pradesh**.  
✓ **Arunachal Pradesh: Capital:** Itanagar, **Chief Minister:** Pema Khandu, **Governor:** B. D. Mishra.
- ❖ The **Information and Broadcasting Secretary Amit Khare** and **TRAI Chairman R S Sharma** inaugurated the **25<sup>th</sup> International conference and exhibition** on terrestrial and satellite broadcasting, **BES EXPO 2019** in **New Delhi**. The theme for this exhibition is **Next Gen Broadcasting in the IT World**.
- ❖ Vice-President of India **Shri Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated **Agri-Vision 2019** conference on '**Envisioning Agro-solutions for smart and Sustainable Agriculture**' in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.  
✓ **Telangana: Chief Minister:** K Chandrashekar Rao, **Governor:** E.S.L. Narasimhan.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** launched the **Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana**.  
✓ 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 **1<sup>st</sup> batch** of **40 people** participated in the **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2019** held in **Varanasi**.  
✓ The Scheme accords first preference to people from Girmitiya countries such as Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica.
- ❖ Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Centers of Excellence** at Deen Dayal Hastkala Sankul, which is a complex dedicated to the **handicrafts** of the region at **Varanasi** in **Uttar Pradesh**.  
✓ He released two books titled: (a) Kashi: The Universe of Crafts and Textiles (b) Indian Textiles: History, Splendour, Grandeur.
- ❖ The **Minister of state** of Youth affairs and Sports (I/C) **Rajyavardhan Rathore** inaugurates **National declamation contest** on **Patriotism** and **Nation Building**. It was organized by **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKC)** along with **Department of Youth affairs**.
- ❖ Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation **Nitin Gadkari**, laid foundation stone for **6 Namami Ganga project** in **Agra** and **Mathura**.  
✓ There were four projects in Mathura that cost of **Rs 511.74 crore**. Out of the four, two were sewage projects. The first one was a integrated **sewerage infrastructure** in the city on **Hybrid Annuity Mode** with the motive of '**One-City-One-Operator**'.
- ❖ **The Government** has formed a standing committee under **NITI Aayog** to monitoring the **prices of specific drugs** and health products which could put an end card to the price fixing power of **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)**, a drug pricing regulator.
- ❖ **Bharat Parv** is a **5 day** event hosted as part of **Republic Day** celebrations. **Bharat Parv** organised at **Red Fort, Delhi**. aims to generate a **patriotic fervour** and **promote** the rich cultural diversity of the country.  
✓ **Bharat Parv** showcases the spirit of **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**.
- ❖ **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** will launch a new train **Samantha Express** on **February 14** from **Nagpur**. The **Samantha Express** will cover prominent places associated with **Gautam Buddha** and chief architect of the Constitution **Dr B R Ambedkar**.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** Minister, **Dharmendra Pradhan** has issued new guidelines for **Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)** with an aim to providing **standardised training** across sectors.  
✓ Decentralization of powers for JSSs by providing accountability and independence to district administration.  
✓ To identify and promote traditional skills in the district through skilling / upskilling.  
✓ Evidence-based assessment system, Easy Online certification.  
✓ Linking JSS to Public Finance Management system to maintain transparency and accountability of the ecosystem.
- ❖ The **Delhi Government** has decided to introduce the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** for farmers based on the recommendations of the **National Commission on Farmers (NCF)** headed by **MS Swaminathan**.  
✓ The committee made some key recommendations on **land reforms, irrigation, credit and insurance, food security, employment, the productivity** of agriculture and farmer competitiveness.
- ❖ **India's** fastest indigenous train, **Train 18** named as **Vande Bharat Express** will ply between **Delhi** and **Varanasi**. Train 18 is an indigenously developed world-class train under **Make in India**.  
✓ **Vande Bharat Express** is the energy efficient and the **first locomotive-less train** in the country . These trains run on electric traction like Metro trains and will start replacing the **Shatabdi Express** fleet from next year.
- ❖ **Ministry of Textiles** organized **National Conclave on Technical Textiles** in **Mumbai**. The event also be a curtain raiser for **TechnoTex 2019**.  
✓ Technical textiles are textile material and products manufactured primarily for technical performance and functional properties. the industry can grow to a market size of **Rs 2 lakh crore** by 2020-21.





- ❖ The **Lokpal Search Committee** headed by former Supreme Court judge **Ranjana Prakash Desai** held its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and discussed modalities related to the appointments of the chief and members of Lokpal.
  - ✓ The other members of the committee include former chief of **State Bank of India (SBI)** **Arundhati Bhattacharya**, Prasar Bharati chairperson **Surya Prakash**, former **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** head **A S Kiran Kumar**, former **Allahabad High Court** judge **Sakha Ram Singh Yadav**, former **Gujarat Police** head **Shabbirhusein S Khandwawala**, retired IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre **Lalit K Panwar** and **Ranjit Kumar**.
- ❖ The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition **Pariksha Pe Charcha 2.0** was held at Talkatora Stadium in **Delhi**. On this occasion, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** interacted with several students, parents and teachers from across the country and shared his **personal experiences** with the young audience.
- ❖ Union Minister for Tourism, **K.J. Alphons**, inaugurated the **first Swadesh Darshan Project** in **Sikkim**. This project was sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism in June 2015 for **Rs. 98.05 crores**.
  - ✓ The project is officially named as “**Development of North East Circuit: Rangpo– Rorathang- Aritar- Phadamchen- Nathang-Sherathang- Tsongmo- Gangtok-Phodong- Mangan- Lachung-Yumthang- Lachen- Thangu-Gurudongmer- Mangan- Gangtok-Tuminlingee- Singtam**”.
  - ✓ The Ministry sanctioned 16 projects for **Rs. 1349.04 crores** covering all **North Eastern States** under its schemes of **Swadesh Darshan** and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive (**PRASHAD**).
- ❖ The **4-day** long celebrations of the **70<sup>th</sup> Republic Day** concluded on January 29, 2019 with 'Beating the Retreat' ceremony, which was held at the historic **Vijay Chowk** in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ The **High Level Committee**, chaired by the Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh**, approved the additional Central assistance from **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)** of **Rs 7214.03 crore** to **6 States** and one Union Territory.
  - ✓ The funds allotted to these states are- **Rs 317.44 crore** to **Himachal Pradesh**, **Rs 191.73 crore** to **Uttar Pradesh**, **Rs. 900.40 crore** to **Andhra Pradesh**, **Rs. 127.60 crore** to **Gujarat**, **Rs. 949.49 crore** to **Karnataka**, **Rs. 4,714.28 crore** to **Maharashtra** and **Rs. 13.09 crore** to **UT of Puducherry**.
- ❖ The **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM JAY)** proposes **three models** through which the states can implement the scheme. They are:
  - ✓ **Insurance Model:**
    - Under this Model, the premiums are paid to the insurance company, which administers and pays the claim.
  - ✓ **Trust-based model:**
    - Under this Model, each State forms its own trust to manage the scheme and claims will be disbursed from a corpus created from central and State government contributions.
  - ✓ **Hybrid model:**
    - Under this Model, a part of the claim comes under the insurance model while the balance gets processed under the trust.
- ❖ The **Union Science & Technology Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan** announced hike in the **fellowship of research scholars** and associates with effect from **January 1, 2019**.
  - ✓ The Fellowship of the Junior Research Fellows in the first two years of Ph.D programme has been increased from **Rs 25,000** to **Rs 31,000 per month**.
  - ✓ For the remaining tenure of Ph.D, Senior Research Fellow will get **Rs 35,000 per month** instead of the present **Rs 28,000 per month**.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ **US president** has signed the '**Asia Reassurance Initiative Act**'. The law aims at countering the encroaching influence and growing threat from **China**, and to reinvigorate U.S. leadership in **Asia**.
  - ✓ The act aims to establish a multifaceted U.S. strategy to increase U.S. security, economic interests, and values in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ **India** and **Pakistan** have exchanged their list of **nuclear installations**. The exchange was in accordance with the Agreement on **Prohibition of Attacks** against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between Pakistan and India.
- ❖ 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.
  - ✓ **USA: Capital:** Washington, D.C, **Currency:** Dollar, **President:** Donald Trump.
  - ✓ **Israel: Capital:** Jerusalem, **Currency:** Israeli new shekel, **Prime Minister:** Benjamin Netanyahu.
- ❖ **Union Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** approved **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between **India** and **Morocco**.
  - ✓ The MoU will promote cooperation for Exchange of knowledge and experience in detection, resolution and prevention of security-related incidents between India and Morocco.
  - ✓ **Morocco: Capital:** Rabat, **Currency:** Moroccan dirham.

- ❖ The **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)** provincial government of Pakistan has **declared** the ancient Hindu religious site of **Panj Tirath** in Peshawar of **North Western Pakistan** as **national heritage**.
- ❖ Justice **Asif Saeed Khosa**, the senior most judge of the **Supreme Court**, was appointed as the new Chief Justice of **Pakistan**.
- ❖ Prime Minister of Norway **Erna Solberg** has arrived in **New Delhi** on a **3-day state visit** to India. She was accompanied by senior officials from her government and a large business delegation. She participated in the **Indo-Norwegian Business Conference**.
  - ✓ **During visit**, The Prime Minister of Norway **Erna Solberg** along with Minister of Commerce and Industry **Suresh Prabhu** inaugurated **India-Norway Business Summit 2019** in **New Delhi**.
  - ✓ The **4<sup>th</sup>** 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"**.
  - ✓ **Norway Capital**: Oslo, **Currency**: Norwegian krone.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** has approved **India's Currency Swap Agreement** with **Japan**. The **\$75-billion** bilateral currency swap arrangement is a milestone in **mutual economic cooperation** and special strategic and global partnership between two countries.
  - ✓ A **Currency swap agreement** is a foreign exchange agreement between two parties to exchange a given amount of one currency for another and, after a specified period of time, to give back the original amounts swapped.
- ❖ The **World Economic Forum** has recognised **Tata Steel's plant** at IJmuiden in the **Netherlands** as **Manufacturing Lighthouse** with state-of-the-art production facilities which successfully adopt and integrate the cutting-edge technologies of the future and drive financial and operational impact.
- ❖ The **World Bank** has released the **Global Economic Prospects report 2019** titled **"Darkening Skies"**. the global growth is expected to slow down to **2.9%** in 2019 and **2.8%** in 2020.
  - ✓ **India's GDP** is expected to grow at **7.3 per cent** in the fiscal year 2018-19, and **7.5 per cent** in the following two years. India would continue to be the **fastest growing** major economy in the world.
  - ✓ Domestic demand has strengthened under the structural reforms such as the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** harmonisation and **bank recapitalisation**.
  - ✓ Strong domestic demand can widen the **current account deficit** to **2.6% of GDP** next year.
- ❖ The **United Nations** report **World Economic Situation and Prospects 2019** discusses various challenges in attaining the sustainable development goals.
  - ✓ **India's economy** is expected to grow at **7.4%** during 2018-19, **7.6%** in 2019-20, and **7.4%** in 2020-21.
  - ✓ **Global growth** is expected to remain steady at **3.0 per cent** in 2019 and 2020, after an expansion of **3.1 per cent** in 2018. Growth in **China** is expected to moderate from **6.6 per cent** in 2018 to **6.3 per cent** in 2019.
  - ✓ **WESP** is a joint product of the **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA)**, the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** and the five United Nations regional commissions (Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, and Western Asia).
- ❖ The **World Economic Forum** has released the report **'Future of Consumption** in Fast-Growth Consumer Market – India'.
  - ✓ **India** would become the **world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest consumer** market behind only **USA** and **China** by **2030**.
- ❖ The **Henley Passport Index** measures the access each country's travel document affords. The Index is based on the data provided by the **International Air Transport Authority (IATA)** and covers 199 passports and 227 travel destinations.
  - ✓ **India** jumped 2 positions from **81<sup>st</sup>** in 2018 to **79<sup>th</sup>** this year.
  - ✓ The **top 5** positions are held by **Japan** (190 countries), Singapore, South Korea, France, Germany, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Sweden, and Luxembourg, Spain.
- ❖ The **1<sup>st</sup> India-Central Asia Dialogue** was held in Samarkand, **Uzbekistan** on January 12 and 13. The Dialogue co-chaired by **External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj** and the Foreign Minister of **Uzbekistan, Abdulaziz Kamilov**.
- ❖ The **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** has released the **Democracy Index** which ranks 167 countries by 60 indicators across **five** broad categories.
  - ✓ The **top 3 country** are **Norway(1), Iceland(2), Sweden (3)** and **India** at the **41<sup>st</sup>** place.
- ❖ The **1<sup>st</sup> Global Aviation Summit (GAS-2019)** with the theme **"Flying for all"** is scheduled to be held in **Mumbai** from January 15-16, 2019. Organised by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** along with **FICCI**.
  - ✓ The summit is supported by International Civil Aviation Organization (**ICAO**), Federal Aviation Administration of US (**FAA**), International Air Transport Association (**IATA**), Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (**CANSO**), Airports Council International (**ACI**) and Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (**AAPA**).





- ❖ The 1<sup>st</sup>-ever **Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme** has started at the Foreign Services Institute in **New Delhi**.
  - ✓ Young Diplomats from 27 countries are participating in the Fellowship Programme, which is being held at the Foreign Services Institute from 14 January–01 February 2019.
  - ✓ The Fellowship Programme **aims** at equipping participants with knowledge and perspectives on various contemporary disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and international security affairs.
- ❖ The **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**.
- ❖ The **Global Risks Report 2019** of the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** describes changes occurring in the **global risks** landscape from **year to year** and identifies global catastrophic risks.
  - ✓ **WEF: Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland, **Founder and Executive Chairman:** Mr. Klaus Schwab.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019**. The summit was held at the Mahatma Mandir, **Gandhinagar**, Gujarat. Theme- **“Youth Connect 2019: Shaping A New India–The Story of Billion Dreams”**.
  - ✓ 15 countries including Australia, Canada, France and Japan have agreed to be **“Partner Countries”** this year.
  - ✓ The Prime Minister also set the target for breaching into top **50 rankings** of the **Ease Of Doing Business**.
  - ✓ Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Uzbekistan President **Shavkat Mirziyoyev** held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the **Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019**.
    - An agreement for importing **Uranium** from Uzbekistan was signed.
    - An agreement for a line of credit of **\$200 million** from **India** for financing housing and **Social Infrastructure** projects in **Uzbekistan**.
- ❖ The **British Parliament** has rejected the **Brexit** deal proposed by the Prime Minister **Theresa May**. The British House of Commons voted **432 -202 against** the deal struck between Britain’s government and the EU in November.
- ❖ The world’s 1<sup>st</sup> **Television** channel dedicated to **human rights** was launched in **London** by the **International Observatory of Human Rights (IOHR)**. It would be a web-based channel and would deliver human rights issues to audiences in over **20 countries** across Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.
- ❖ Union Tourism Minister **K. J. Alphons**, co-chaired the **7<sup>th</sup> 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**.
  - ✓ **Vietnam: Capital:** Hanoi, **Currency:** Dong.
- ❖ **India** will host the **14<sup>th</sup> session** of the **Conference of Parties to United Nations Convention to combat Desertification (UNCCD)** in **October 2019** to address the issues of **land degradation** and **desertification**.
  - ✓ The UNCCD, established in 1994, has 197 parties working towards maintaining and restoring land and soil productivity and mitigating the effects of drought.
- ❖ The **2<sup>nd</sup> World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019** on the Regulation of **Homeopathic Medical Products** was held in **Goa**. The forum inaugurated by AYUSH Minister **Shripad Naik**.
- ❖ **Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)** has been recognised as **‘World Capital of Architecture’ for 2020** by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (**UNESCO**).
  - ✓ Rio de Janeiro will be hosting the World Congress of the **International Union of Architects (UIA)** in **July 2020**. The theme of the 2020 World Congress of the International Union of Architects is **“All the worlds. Just one world”**.
- ❖ The **City Momentum Index** of **JLL** which identifies **World Dynamic Cities** has been released by the **property consultant JLL**.
  - ✓ Silicon Valley of India, **Bengaluru** has emerged as the **world’s most dynamic city** among 131 major established and emerging business hubs globally. The **2<sup>nd</sup> place** is occupied by **Hyderabad**.
  - ✓ Other Indian cities which featured in the top 20 list are **Delhi (4<sup>th</sup>)**, **Pune (5<sup>th</sup>)**, **Chennai (7<sup>th</sup>)** and **Kolkata (20<sup>th</sup>)**.
- ❖ The **Global Talent Competitive Index** prepared by the **INSEAD business school** in partnership with **Tata Communications** and **Adecco Group** was released on the first day of the **World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2019**. Theme: **‘Diversity for competitiveness’**.
  - ✓ India has rank **81<sup>st</sup>** on the global talent competitive index, India remains a laggard among the BRICS nations.
  - ✓ Switzerland is top followed by Singapore, the US, Norway and Denmark in the top five on the list.
- ❖ The **World Economic Outlook** of the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has given the following prospects about the growth trends for India: **India** will remain the **fastest-growing economy** in the world, at least for the **next two years**.
  - ✓ **IMF** has retained its growth projection for the country at **7.5 per cent** for **2019-20** and said it is likely to accelerate to **7.7 per cent** in 2020-21.
  - ✓ The projection by **IMF** is higher than the **Central Statistics Office’s (CSO)** estimate of **7.2 per cent** and lower than the **RBI’s** estimate of **7.4 per cent**. IMF’s estimates are in line with the **World Bank’s** estimate of **7.3 per cent**.



- ❖ WHO in collaboration with **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** to form a global committee to work and implement the fundamental changes in **health at work**.
  - ✓ WHO with the support of ILO and OECD implemented the five-year '**Working for Health**', Global action plan that would ensure the necessary workforce for universal health coverage and stimulating economic growth.
  - ✓ **Four Sustainable Development Goals**: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (Goal 3); Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (Goal 4); Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (Goal 5); and Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (Goal 8)
  - ✓ **Five workstreams**: To facilitate the implementation of intersectoral approaches and country-driven action and catalyse sustainable investments, capacitybuilding and policy action: (1) advocacy, social dialogue and policy dialogue; (2) data, evidence and accountability; (3) education, skills and jobs; (4) financing and investments; and (5) international labour mobility.
- ❖ World's longest **3D printed concrete bridge** was opened in **China**. It is located on the **Wenzaobang River** in **Shanghai**.
- ❖ The Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** led Union Cabinet approved amendments to the framework on **CURRENCY SWAP** arrangement for **SAARC** member countries by incorporating a stand-by facility of **USD 400 million**.
  - ✓ **SAARC: Founded**: 8 December 1985, **Headquarter**: Kathmandu, **Secretary General**: Amjad Hussain B Sial.
- ❖ The **first time**, **India** has been ranked in the **Bloomberg Innovation Index**. India is ranked at the **54<sup>th</sup>** Position with a world's most **innovative countries**.
  - ✓ **South Korea** has retained its top spot, **Germany** ranked **2<sup>nd</sup>**, Whereas **Finland** has been ranked at the **3<sup>rd</sup>** spot.
- ❖ **India** is among the **most trusted nations** globally when it comes to government, business, NGOs and media but the country's brands are among the least-trusted, as per the **2019 Edelman Trust Barometer report**.
  - ✓ **China** topped the **Trust Index** among both the **informed public** and the **general population** segments with scores of 79 and 88 respectively.
- ❖ South African President **Cyril Ramaphosa** delivered the **first IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa) Gandhi-Mandela Memorial Freedom Lecture** in **New Delhi**.
  - ✓ **IBSA** is an international tripartite grouping for **promoting international cooperation** among India, Brazil and South Africa.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** headed by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) between **India** and **Kuwait** for cooperation on the **recruitment of domestic workers**.
- ❖ The **Pakistan government** declared **sugarcane juice** as the "**National drink**" of the country.
- ❖ The **Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)** is a triennial international survey which aims to evaluate education systems worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students. **India** would be participating in the PISA assessment in **2021**.
  - ✓ PISA coordinated by the **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** is a 2-hour long test.
  - ✓ **India** had participated in **PISA 2009**. The performance of Indian students was abysmally poor and India was ranked **72<sup>nd</sup>** rank among **74** participating countries.
- ❖ The **World Steel Association** has released a Report highlighting various trends related to the Industry, they are:
  - ✓ **China** is the **top producer** of **crude steel** and it accounts for more than **51 per cent** of global production.
  - ✓ **India** has replaced **Japan** as the **world's 2<sup>nd</sup>-largest** steel producing country, **United States**, at the **4<sup>th</sup> position**.
- ❖ **Australia** celebrates **26<sup>th</sup> January** as **Australia Day** which marks the landing of the First Fleet, a convoy of 11 ships carrying convicts, at Port Jackson in 1788.
- ❖ The **South Asian Nitrogen Hub (SANH)** is a major **international research programme** to tackle the challenge that **nitrogen pollution** poses for environment, food security, human health and the economy in **South Asia**. The SANH will be established with funding from **UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)** under its **Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)**.
- ❖ **India** and **China** have signed the protocol for **exports of Indian tobacco leaves to China**.
  - ✓ Quality tobacco on par with international standards is available in India at competitive prices and there is a good potential for export of Indian tobacco to China.
- ❖ **India** ranked **6<sup>th</sup>** leading nation globally in the **GDPR readiness index**, according to latest ranking released by global networking leader **Cisco**.
  - ✓ Nearly **65 per cent** of Indian organisations are better prepared for the European Union's **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**.
- ❖ **Corruption Perceptions Index** of Transparency International ranks countries and territories based on how corrupt a country's public sector and judiciary are perceived to be by experts and business executives.
  - ✓ **Denmark** is the world least **corrupt country**, followed by **New Zealand** and **Finland**.
  - ✓ **India's** ranking increased from **81<sup>st</sup>** in **2017** to **78** in **2018**. while **China** ranked **87** and **Pakistan** **117** in the index.

- ❖ **El-Nino** disturbs the atmospheric conditions across the world. **El-Nino** occurs every 2-to-7 years with very strong El Niño's occurring about every 15 years results in **droughts, floods, wildfires, dust and snow storms**, fish kill, and even elevated **risks** of civil conflicts.
- ❖ The **central banks** of the **UAE and Saudi Arabia** will launch a common digital currency called **Aber**. Aber will be used for **financial settlements** between the two countries through **Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers technologies**.
  - ✓ The digital currency would aid in studying the impact on the improvement and reduction of remittance costs and the assessments of risks.

### **STATES HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ The **Government of West Bengal** has announced the **Krishak Bandhu** scheme to address the **farm distress** in the state.
  - ✓ Features of the Scheme:
    - The West Bengal government will give annual financial assistance of **Rs 5,000 per acre** in two instalments, one during Kharif and another during Rabi season.
    - The scheme also provides for a **life insurance** cover of **Rs 2,00,000** in case of death, irrespective of the cause, of an earning family member (farmer) aged between **18 and 60 years**.
  - ✓ **West Bengal: Chief Minister:** Mamata Banerjee, **Governor:** Keshari Nath Tripathi.
- ❖ The **Union Home Ministry** has approved the proposal of the **Uttar Pradesh Government** to rename **Allahabad** as **Prayagraj**.
- ❖ The **Deen Dayal Veterinary University** in **Uttar Pradesh** proposed to set up the **first Goat Fertility Lab** in the state under **Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojna** at the cost of **Rs 22 crore**.
  - ✓ The University has entered into a contract with Pradeshik cooperative **Dairy Federation** for marketing.
- ❖ **Veer Savarkar International Airport** in **Port Blair** has been declared as an authorized **Immigration Check post** for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.
- ❖ The **Uttar Pradesh cabinet** cleared a policy for implementation of a **0.5% cow welfare cess** or '**Gau Kalyan**' cess.
  - ✓ This would help the state earn additional **Rs.34 crore** for constructing and maintaining **cattle shelters** to accommodate at least 1,000 stray cattle per district.
- ❖ **Andhra Pradesh** was conferred with CBIP's "**Best Implementation of Water Resources Project**" for better planning, implementation, monitoring and speedy execution of **Polavaram multipurpose project** on the **Godavari River**.
- ❖ The **Government of Maharashtra** has decided to give **two LED bulbs**, a **DC fan** and a **mobile charging socket** as freebies to farmers enrolling under the **Atal Solar Krishi Pump Yojana**.
  - ✓ The government of Maharashtra introduced the **Atal Solar Krishi Pump Yojana** to reduce losses due to **non-payment of electricity bills** and also promote **solar energy**.
- ❖ The **11 projects** were approved to revive the mythical **Saraswati River** at the meeting of **Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board (HSHDB)** headed by Haryana Chief minister **Manohar Lal Khattar**.
  - ✓ **Haryana: Chief Minister:** Shri. Manohar Lal, **Governor:** Shri. Satyadeo Narain Arya.
- ❖ The **Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI)** and **Union Commerce Ministry** is going to organize a 2-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**'.
- ❖ **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister **Chandrababu Naidu** unveiled various welfare scheme for the marginalized and economically backward Brahmins through **AP Brahmin Welfare Corporation** such as distribution of **Cars** to the **Unemployed Brahmin youths**, **loans** and **subsidies**.
- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** announced interest-free **loans** of up to **Rs.3 lakh** for 6 lakh **women self-help groups (WSHGs)** benefitting about 70 lakh women in Odisha.
- ❖ The **30<sup>th</sup> Edition** of the **International Kite Festival** inaugurated ahead of **Uttarayan** or **Makar Sankranti**, the day when winter season starts changing to summer and farmers welcome the approaching harvest season, at **Sabarmati River Front** in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.
  - ✓ **Gujarat: Capital:** Gandhinagar, **Chief Minister:** Vijay Rupani, **Governor:** Om Prakash Kohli.
- ❖ The **13<sup>th</sup> edition** of **Global Healthcare Summit (GHS-2019)** will be held in **Hyderabad, Telangana** from July 21 to 24.
- ❖ The **National Green Tribunal** has imposed a fine of **100 crore rupees** on **Meghalaya government** for its failure to curb **illegal coal mining** in the state.
- ❖ The Government of **West Bengal** has decided to **exit** from the Centre's ambitious **Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana**.
- ❖ **Arunachal Pradesh**, Chief Minister **Pema Khandu** has recently inaugurated India's longest 300-meter **single-lane steel cable suspension bridge** over **River Siang** in Upper Siang district of **Arunachal Pradesh**. The suspension bridge - also known as **Byorung bridge** - was built at a cost of **Rs 4,843 crore**.
  - ✓ **Arunachal Pradesh: Capital:** Itanagar, **Governor:** Brigadier B.D. Mishra.





- ❖ The 1-day **Global Skill Summit 2019** was held in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**.  
✓ **Jharkhand**: Chief Minister: Raghubar Das, Governor: Draupadi Murmu.
- ❖ **Sikkim**, will become **first** state to introduce **UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME (UBI)** in the entire nation.  
✓ This same scheme has been tested even in India. The UBI has been tried in **Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh** and the results are fairly good.
- ❖ PM **Narendra Modi**, launched the 4-laning of **Solapur-Osmanabad** section of NH-211, underground **sewerage system** and 3 **sewage** treatment plants at an investment of **Rs.1,100 crore**.  
✓ **Maharashtra**: Capital: Mumbai, CM: Devendra Fadnavis, Governor: Vidyasagar Rao
- ❖ 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**.  
✓ UDAN was **launched in 2016** to make air travel affordable for people through **subsidised ticket rates**. The aim is to connect smaller places through air network by using under-served and unserved airports.
- ❖ The **Polavaram project** of **Andra Pradesh** got its place in the **Guinness book of world record**.  
✓ **Andra Pradesh**: Chief Minister: Chandrababu Naidu, Governor: E. S. L. Narasimhan.
- ❖ **Coimbatore** city traffic police launched a mobile application '**Police-E-Eye**' for the public to report on **traffic violations to police** and to keep a check on the same.
- ❖ The **Uttar Pradesh** Governor **Shri Ram Naik** inaugurated the **Sanskriti Kumbh** at **Prayagraj**.
- ❖ **Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project** was signed **6 states** - **Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan** and **Uttarakhand** in the presence of Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Road Transport & Highways and Shipping **Shri Nitin Gadkari**.  
✓ Under the project, **3 storage projects** are proposed to be constructed on the **river Yamuna** and two of its tributaries - **Tons and Giri** in the hilly regions of **Uttarakhand** and **Himachal Pradesh**.
- ❖ The **Gujarat Government** has become the India's **1<sup>st</sup> state** to announced that the benefits of **10% quota** for **Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** of **General Category** in educational institutions and government jobs.
- ❖ **Sikkim** Chief Minister **Pawan Chamling** has recently launched '**One Family, One Job**' scheme which entitles one government job for **every family** in the state.  
✓ **Sikkim**: Capital: Gangtok, Chief Minister: Pawan Kumar Chamling, Governor: Shri. Ganga Prasad.
- ❖ **Kerala** chief minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** launched country's **largest startup ecosystem**, integrated startup complex under the **Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)**, at the Technology Innovation Zone (TIZ), in **Kochi, Kerala**.
- ❖ The **Chennai Traffic Police** introduced a road safety **robot** named **ROADEO**, to help in traffic management and assist citizens.
- ❖ **Odisha** Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** launched the '**Ama Ghare LED**' scheme, under which about 95 lakh families in the State will each get **four LED bulbs** free of cost.
- ❖ **Puducherry government** has decided to **ban** the production, sale and use of single-use **plastic products** in the Union Territory from **March 1, 2019**.
- ❖ **Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA)** is a support scheme of **Odisha** whose primary targets are small farmers, cultivators and landless agricultural labourers.  
✓ Under the Scheme, Odisha would spend **Rs 10,180 crore** over three years until **2020-21**.
- ❖ **Madhya Pradesh**, Chief Minister **Kamal Nath** launched the **Rs 50,000-crore farm debt-waiver scheme** named '**Jai Kisan Rin Mukti Yojana**'. It would benefit **55 lakh** small and marginal farmers. Under this scheme, Farmers who have registered themselves to pay GST and are paying income tax cannot avail benefits.
- ❖ The **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** has recently given its approval for the **Trishna Gas project** of **ONGC** to extract **Natural Gas** from **Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary (TWS)** in Belonia subdivision of **Gomati district** of **Tripura**.  
✓ Union Water Resources Minister **Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated the **9<sup>th</sup> International Micro irrigation conference** at **Aurangabad, Maharashtra**. The theme of conference "**Micro Irrigation and Modern Agriculture**".
- ❖ **Pongal** a harvest festival started in **Tamil Nadu**. It is a festival according to the Tamil calendar and it is usually celebrated from January 15 to January 18.  
✓ **Tamil Nadu**: Chief Minister: Shri Edappadi Palaniswami, Governor: Shri Banwarilal Purohit.
- ❖ **Tripura** Chief Minister **Biplab Kumar Deb** launched the **Sustainable Catchment Forest Management (SCATFORM)** project which is undertaken with the assistance of **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**.  
✓ The SCATFORM project aims to address issues such as **forest cover loss** and **forest degradation** have been mainly caused by shifting cultivation.  
✓ **Tripura**:- Capital: Agartala, Governor: Kaptan Singh Solanki.
- ❖ The Chief Minister of **Haryana** **Manohar Lal Khattar** has announced the **Shaurya awards** for students in the name of **71 state police martyrs**.
- ❖ The **Uttar Pradesh** became the **3<sup>rd</sup> state** after **Jharkhand** and **Gujarat** to approve the **10 per cent** reservation for **economically backward** among upper castes in **jobs** and **educational institutions**.

- ❖ The **Government of Tamil Nadu** has released **Startup and Innovation policy 2018-2023** with a mission of providing an enabling and innovative ecosystem for startups registered in the State and to make Tamil Nadu a '**Global Innovation hub** for startups' by 2023.
  - ✓ **Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII)** will act as a nodal agency to promote and facilitate startups.
  - ✓ **Tamil Nadu Startup Seed Grant Fund (TNSSGF)** of **Rs 50 crore** with an allotment of Rs 5 crore in the first year in partnership with financial institutions.
- ❖ The 1<sup>st</sup> time, **Antonov AN-32** transport aircraft of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** carried out a successful landing at **Sikkim's Pakyong Airport**, one of the highest airfields in the country.
  - ✓ Pakyong Airport: It is the **first greenfield** airport to be constructed in the **Northeastern Region** of India.
- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister, **Shri Naveen Patnaik** announced the extension of **free health services** under **Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY)** to all medical colleges and hospitals of Odisha from **1<sup>st</sup> February 2019**.
- ❖ President of India **Shri. Ramnath Nath Kovind** inaugurated the **Gandhian Resurgence Summit** on the occasion of Father of the Nation **Mahatma Gandhi's 150 birth** anniversary at **Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh**. Slogan is "**Chalo Kumbh Chale**".
- ❖ The Chief Minister of Tripura **Biplab Kumar Deb** unveiled the official logo of **Tripura Tea**. The Tripura Tea logo features **Neermahal**, the iconic landmark of Tripura.
- ❖ The **Government of Odisha** announced a hike of **Rs 200** per month in the **social security pension** under **Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY)**.
  - ✓ The **Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY)** is a pension scheme under the Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the disabled, old age persons in the state of Odisha.
- ❖ The **Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Limited (GCMMF)** has launched **Amul Camel Milk** in selected markets of **Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad and Kutch** in Gujarat.
- ❖ The **Telangana Government** decided to form a '**State Tiger Protection Force**' to save the Big cat population in the State.
  - ✓ **Capital:** Hyderabad, **Chief Minister:** K. Chandrashekar Rao, **Governor:** E. S. L. Narasimhan.
- ❖ **Karthiyani Amma (96)** from **Kerala** became Commonwealth Learning Goodwill Ambassador. She was the **oldest ever** candidate to appear for Kerala Literacy Mission's **Akshara Laksham** literacy exam.
  - ✓ She secured top position with **98%** marks in **Kerala Literacy Mission's Akshara Laksham**.
- ❖ **Uttar Pradesh** celebrated its **69<sup>th</sup> foundation day** in Lucknow as "**UP DIVAS**".
  - ✓ Uttar Pradesh earlier known as United Province, got its name as Uttar Pradesh on **January 24, 1950**.
  - ✓ **Capital:** Lucknow, **Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath, **Governor:** Ram Naik.
- ❖ **Union Minister of State (Independent Charge)** for AYUSH, **Shripad Naik** inaugurated **2<sup>nd</sup> World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019** on the 'Regulation of Homeopathic Medical Products; Advancing global collaboration' held in **Goa**.
  - ✓ It is organized by the Central Council for Research in Homeopathy under the Ministry of AYUSH along with World Integrated Medicine Forum.
  - ✓ **Goa: Capital:** Panaji, **Chief Minister:** Manohar Parrikar, **Governor:** Mridula Sinha.
- ❖ **Tamil Nadu Government** organised the **2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Global Investor summit-2019** in **Chennai**.
  - ✓ The **State Government** would soon unveil **e-vehicle policy** to give a boost to **electric vehicles manufacturing** in the state.
- ❖ Three day **Flamingo Festival**, held in **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.
- ❖ A grand "**Jallikattu**" (bull-taming) event held in **Pudukottai**, Tamil Nadu. this event entered the world record for the maximum number of bulls released into the **sport arena**.
- ❖ The **Government of Madhya Pradesh** has announced the **Yuva Swabhiman Yojana** to provide employment for the unemployed youth from the **Economically Weaker Sections** of the society.
  - ✓ The scheme aims to provide **100 days** of employment to youngsters from economically weaker sections of the society in urban areas.
  - ✓ **Capital:** Bhopal, **Chief Minister:** Kamal Nath, **Governor:** Anandiben Patel.

**SSC (Staff Selection Commission) Recruitment - 2019**  
**New Calender for SSC-2019/20 Declared**

**SSC (MTS/CHSL/CGL)**

Expected Total Vacancies  
**30,000<sup>+</sup>**

 **Banking Academy**  
(Creating A Way For Govt. Jobs)  
(Preparation for All Types of Competitive Exams)  
 Visit us : [www.bankingacademy.co.in](http://www.bankingacademy.co.in)

**New Class Starts From Every MONDAY**

- ❖ The **Government of Kerala** has launched **Pravasi Dividend Pension Scheme**. The governor of Kerala **P. Sathasivam** made this announcement in the address to the state assembly.
- ❖ The Chief Minister of Odisha, **Shri Naveen Patnaik** announced "**Jiban Sampark Project**" Project in partnership with **UNICEF India** (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) during after inauguration of Tribal Fair also known as "**Adivasi Mela-2019**" on Republic day.
  - ✓ The annual Adivasi Mela showcases the art, artefacts, culture, tradition, and music of the tribal community.
  - ✓ The focus areas of Jiban Sampark Project are skill development, empowering communities, cooperation and innovation among the groups.
- ❖ The **Uttarakhand Government** has obtained the permission to develop the **TULIP GARDEN** over 50 hectares of forest land in **Pithoragarh district** at a cost of **Rs 50 crore**. It will be the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tulip garden** in the country after the one located in **Srinagar** of Jammu and Kashmir.
  - ✓ **Capital:** Dehradun, **Chief Minister:** Trivendra Singh Rawat, **Governor:** Baby Rani Maurya.
- ❖ Chief Minister of Goa **Manohar Parrikar** inaugurated the "**Atal Setu**" on the **Mandovi River** in Goa.
- ❖ The Government of **Uttar Pradesh** has approved the construction of the **Ganga Expressway**. The government has said that it would be the **longest expressway** in the world. The expressway will provide for better connectivity of the **Prayagraj (Allahabad)** to **Western Pradesh**.
  - ✓ This 600km Ganga Expressway would be constructed at an approximate cost of **Rs 36,000 crores**.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** dedicated the **National Salt Satyagraha Memorial** at Dandi in **Navsari district**, Gujarat to the nation, on the occasion of **Mahatma Gandhi's 71<sup>st</sup> death anniversary**.
  - ✓ Other Projects: During his visit to Gujarat also laid the foundation stone for the extension of **terminal building** of the **Surat Airport** at a cost of **Rs 354 crores**.
- ❖ The **Punjab Cabinet** approved the '**Smart Village Campaign**' (SVC) for overall development of villages at a cost of **Rs.384.40 crore**.
  - ✓ The campaign is based on the premise that each village would move upwards by achieving various goals in different fields like infrastructure, health, education, environment etc.
  - ✓ **Capital:** Chandigarh, **Chief Minister:** Captain Amarinder Singh, **Governor:** V P Singh Badnore.

### **ECONOMY AWARENESS**

- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** has released guidelines on **tokenization** for various card transactions, including from debit and credit cards.
  - ✓ Tokenization: which aims at **improving safety and security of the payment system**, refers to replacement of actual card details with an **unique alternate code called the 'token'**.
  - ✓ This token is used to perform card transactions in contactless mode at point of sale (POS) terminals, quick response (QR) code payments.
- ❖ The **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry has issued a clarification on "**Angel Tax**" levied on startups.
  - ✓ Angel tax is a term used to refer to the income tax payable on capital raised by startup companies via the issue of shares where the share price is seen in excess of the fair market value of the shares sold. The excess realization is treated as income and taxed accordingly.



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has proposed a **one-time loan restructuring scheme** for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The loan restructuring would be a big relief for troubled small businesses hit by demonetisation in late 2016 and the implementation of **Goods And Services Tax (GST)** in July 2017.
  - ✓ The scheme is applicable to the **stressed accounts** provided the total fund and non-fund based exposure to such a borrower does not surpass **Rs 25 crore**.
- ❖ The Bi-annual **Fiscal Stability Report** discussing issues relating to the **development and regulation** of the financial sector has been released by the RBI.
  - ✓ The asset quality of **Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCB)** showed an improvement with **gross non-performing assets (GNPA)** ratio declining from **11.5%** in March 2018 to **10.8%**.
- ❖ Private sector lender **RBL Bank** appointed **Pankaj Sharma** as its **chief operations officer (COO)**.
  - ✓ **RBL Bank: Headquarter:** Mumbai, **MD & CEO:** Mr. Vishwavir Ahuja, **Tagline:** Apno ka bank.
- ❖ **Giriraj Singh**, Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) informed the parliament that the MSME ministry has established an **Export Promotion Cell** with an aim to **create a sustainable ecosystem** for entire MSME development.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** constituted an Expert Committee on **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** under the chairmanship of **U.K. Sinha**, former Chairman of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.
- ❖ **Syndicate Bank** and **SBI Life Insurance** signed a bancassurance pact aiming to offer a comprehensive financial planning solution to its customers.
  - ✓ **Syndicate Bank: Headquarter:** Manipal, **MD & CEO:** Mrutyunjay Mahapatra, **Tagline:** Faithful and Friendly.
- ❖ The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved the merger of state-run **Vijaya Bank, Bank of Baroda and Dena Bank**.
  - ✓ This marks the first-ever **three-way merger** in the country's banking sector. The merged entity will become the **third largest bank** in the country, after government-owned State Bank of India and private sector lender ICICI Bank. Bank of Baroda will be the transferee bank while the other two public sector banks will be transferor banks. That means the **businesses of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank will be transferred to Bank of Baroda**.
  - ✓ The board of Bank of Baroda will ensure that the interests of all transferring employees and officers of the transferor bank are protected. The merger will come into **force on April 1, 2019**.
- ❖ The Union Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** has written a Facebook post titled **"Two years of insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)"**. In the post, he explains how things have been changed after the IBC was passed by the Parliament.
  - ✓ Once the IBC was passed by the government, the government took immediate steps to set up Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India and **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)**.
- ❖ The **Central Statistics Office (CSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has released the **first advance estimates of National Income** for 2018-19.
  - ✓ The Indian economy is expected to grow at **7.2 per cent** in the financial year **2018-19** which is higher than the **6.7 per cent** GDP growth in the previous financial year **2017-2018**.
  - ✓ **India's per capita income** in real terms (at 2011-12 prices) during 2018-19 is likely to attain a level of **Rs 91,921** as compared to **Rs 86,668** for the year 2017-18. The per capita income would grow at a rate of **6.1 per cent**.
- ❖ The RBI has released a paper titled **"The Impact of Crude Price Shock on CAD, Inflation and Fiscal Deficit"**. The paper outlines how the crude price shock will have an adverse impact on **current account deficit (CAD)**, Inflation and Fiscal Deficit.
- ❖ The **Prevention of Money Laundering (PMLA)** court in **Mumbai** has declared **Vijay Mallya** as a **Fugitive Economic Offender**. Vijay Mallya is the **first businessman** to be charged under the new **fugitive economic offender's act 2018**.
  - ✓ According to the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 a fugitive economic offender is a person against whom an arrest warrant has been issued for his or her involvement in economic offences involving at least **Rs. 100 crore** or more and has left India to avoid prosecution.
- ❖ The **4<sup>th</sup> edition** of the **Swachh Survekshan Survey** has been launched in **New Delhi**. The Swachh Survekshan 2019 conducted by an independent **third party** across **4,237 towns** and cities between **January 4 and 28**.
  - ✓ Objectives of the Swachh Survekshan Survey: To ensure the sustainability of the initiatives taken towards **garbage-free and open defecation-free cities**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** predicted **India's economy** to grow **7.4%** in **2018-19**.
- ❖ According to the **RBI Report on Trend and Progress of Banking** in India, number of complaints registered at banking ombudsman offices has increased to **25%** owing to increased awareness and poor internal redressal mechanisms of banks.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Finance** announced that the government has cut **import duties** on crude and refined palm oil from Southeast Asian countries or **Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)** countries.
  - ✓ **ASEAN: Members:** 10, **Headquarter:** Jakarta, Indonesia.



- ❖ **ICICI Bank**, in a first-of-its-kind programme, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Small Business FinCredit India Pvt. Ltd. (SBFC)**, a systemically important **Non-Banking Finance Company** for entrepreneurs, to jointly provide credit worth up to **Rs 1 crore** to **MSMEs** for a tenure of **15 years**.
  - ✓ **ICICI Bank: Headquarter:** Mumbai, **MD & CEO:** Mr. Sandeep Bakshi, **Tagline:** Hum Hain Na!
- ❖ The **3 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** – **Punjab Gramin Bank, Malwa Gramin Bank and Sutlej Gramin Bank** has been amalgamated into a single RRB by the Government.
- ❖ The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** slapped a penalty of **Rs 5 lakh** on **United India Insurance Co** for violating norms regarding settlement of **motor claims**.
  - ✓ **UBI: Headquarter:** Kolkata, **MD & CEO:** Ashok Kumar Pradhan, **Tagline:** The Bank that begins with 'U'.
- ❖ Markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has allowed **custodial services** in the **commodity derivatives market**.
- ❖ **GST Council's 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting** held In **New Delhi** Under the chairmanship of the Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, **Shri Arun Jaitley**, The Council has taken the following important decisions:
  - ✓ The exemption limit for **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** registration has been increased to **Rs 40 lakh** from the current **Rs 20 lakh** to ease the cost of compliance for small taxpayers or micro, small and medium enterprises (**MSMEs**).
  - ✓ This exemption limit has been doubled to **Rs 20 lakh** for **North-Eastern** and **hilly states**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has made changes with the **Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS)** to allow charitable institutions, central government entities and state government entities to **deposit gold** under GMS.
- ❖ The **CAG report on Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management** has been tabled in the parliament.
  - ✓ **CAG (Rajiv Mehrishi)** recommends the government to frame a policy on **off-budget financing** and sources of such funding in view of its fiscal implication.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has constituted a high-level committee under **Nandan Nilekani** to suggest measures to strengthen the safety and security of **digital payments** in the country.
- ❖ The **Reserve bank of India** has agreed to disburse **Sri lanka's** loan amount of **USD 400 million** to boost the nation's reserve. RBI has agreed to issue the fund under the **SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)** **SWAP** facility system.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved **Iran's Pasargad Bank** to open branches in **Mumbai** for easing trade related transactions.
  - ✓ **Iran: Capital:** Tehran, **Currency:** Iranian rial.
- ❖ Market regulator **SEBI** has set up a **Research advisory committee (RAC)** that will help and analyse the new methods of policy making for the development of **Capital Market**. The committee headed by **Sankar De**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted **NBFC-P2P (Non-Banking Financial Company-Peer to Peer)** Certificate to **IndiaMoneyMart** and this certification will enable IndiaMoneyMart to expand operations and target loan disbursements worth **INR 100 Crore** by the end of financial year **2018-19**.
- ❖ The private sector **Jana Small Finance Bank** has launched a new **Current Account** with **Auto-Sweep facility** that will enable bank's existing and potential new customers to **auto sweep-in** and **sweep-out** the idle funds in the current account to **Sweep Fixed Deposit** and earn high interest.
  - ✓ **JSFB: Headquarter:** Bengaluru, **MD & CEO:** Ajay Kanwal, **Tagline:** Likho Apni Kahaani.
- ❖ The **Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB)**, **Nepal's central monetary authority**, wrote to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to **legalize** Indian currency notes of denominations **higher** than **Rs 100** in Nepal.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has voiced concern on the spike in **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)** under the government's flagship scheme **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana** to support micro-enterprises in the country.
  - ✓ **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)** launched in **8 April 2015**. provided under 3 categories:
    - ✓ Under **Shishu** up to **Rs 50,000** under.
    - ✓ Under **Kishore** for loans between **Rs 50,001-Rs 5 lakh**.
    - ✓ Under **Tarun** for loans between **Rs 5,00,001 and Rs 10 lakh** category.
- ❖ Private sector lender **IDFC Bank** changed its name to **IDFC First Bank Ltd** owing to the merge of the bank with **Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) Capital First**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, under the relevant provisions of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, imposed a penalty of **Rs 3 crore** on **Citibank India** for non-compliance in criteria for directors of the bank.
- ❖ The **Finance Ministry** has asked the **public sector banks** to gradually reduce the government's equity to **52 per cent**. Currently, some of the public sector banks have government's holding beyond **75 per cent**.
- ❖ The **Finance Ministry** and the **Reserve Bank of India** are working on providing some relaxation on the **prompt corrective action (PCA)** framework for **stressed banks**.
  - ✓ The Government gave an additional **Rs 41,000 crore** to state-run lenders, enhancing the **total recapitalisation** in the current financial year to **Rs 1.06 lakh crore** from **Rs 65,000 crore**.



- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** headed by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved a capital infusion of **Rs 6,000 crore** in state-owned **Export-Import Bank of India (Exim)** to expand its business.
  - ✓ The equity will be infused in two tranches of **Rs.4,500 crore** in 2018-19 and **Rs.1,500 crore** in 2019-20, respectively,".
  - ✓ The Union Cabinet, also approved an increase in the bank's authorised capital from **RS.10,000 crore** to **Rs.20,000 crore**.
- ❖ The **Union Finance Ministry** has started the **Know Your Budget series** on **Twitter** to educate the general public about the budgetary process. It is a **fortnight series** which explains the importance of Union Budget and its making.
  - ✓ With the government set to present the **interim Budget** for 2019-20
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** will inject **Rs 10,000 crore** into the system through the purchase of **Government Securities** to increase liquidity.
- ❖ The Maharashtra Chief Minister's Office in Mumbai announced that **SBI** along with others banks agreed to **provide finance** for Nagpur-Mumbai '**Samruddhi Corridor**' expressway project.
  - ✓ Among the consortium of banks, SBI will be providing the highest amount which is **Rs. 8,500 crore**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, imposed a **Rs 1-crore** penalty on state-owned **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** for non-compliance of **Know Your Customer (KYC)** guidelines and fraud-classification norms.
- ❖ **Fitch group** company India ratings and research estimated that India's **GDP growth** to be a "**Tad Higher**" at **7.5%** in financial year **2019-20**. Earlier it was **7.2%** during fiscal year **2018-19**.
- ❖ **Tamil Nadu** Chief Minister **Edappadi K Palaniswami** released **2 commemorative coins** in the denominations of **Rs 100** and **Rs 5** to mark the **102<sup>nd</sup>** birth anniversary of **DR M G Ramachandran**.
- ❖ The **GST Council** has decided to set up a **seven-member committee** to look into **revenue shortfall** being faced by the states after the **GST roll-out**, and suggest steps for augmenting collections.
  - ✓ The committee would be headed by Deputy Chief Minister and **Finance Minister of Bihar Sushil Modi**.
- ❖ The **32<sup>nd</sup>** Meeting of **GST Council** at **New Delhi**, a **Group of Ministers (GoM)** on issues relating to **lottery** has been constituted. The ministerial panel headed by Maharashtra Finance Minister **Sudhir Mungantiwar** will examine uniformity of taxation on **lottery** under **GST** or other issues arising out of it.
- ❖ The **Union government** has set up a 7-member **Group of Ministers (GoM)** to examine and suggest ways to resolve the issues plaguing the **real estate sector** after the implementation of the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**.
  - ✓ The GoM headed Gujarat deputy chief minister **Nitin Patel** has finance ministers of Kerala, Punjab, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh and Goa's Minister of Panchayat as members.
- ❖ The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** has set up a 11-member working group under the Chairmanship of former SEBI chief **UK Sinha** to go into the concept of '**Group Insolvency**' and suggest a suitable framework.
  - ✓ Group Insolvency framework will help prevent corporate groups from uncontrollably falling apart in insolvency and thereby thwart the chances of their restructuring.
  - ✓ **IBBI: Headquarter:** New Delhi, **Chairman:** M.S. Sahoo.
- ❖ **HDFC Standard Life Insurance** changed its name to **HDFC Life Insurance**.
  - ✓ **HDFC Life Insurance: Headquarter:** Mumbai, **MD & CEO:** Ms. Vibha Padalkar, **Tagline:** Sar Utha ke Jiyo.
- ❖ **India** surpassed the **UK** in the **2019** rankings of **world's 5<sup>th</sup>** Largest Economy.
- ❖ The **SBI Ecowrap report** recommends the **government to opt** for the **unconditional cash transfer** to farmers to alleviate **agrarian distress** rather than **Universal Basic Income (UBI)** scheme.
  - ✓ Initiating **Rythu Bandhu Scheme** on national level may not be feasible presently because land data in several states including Bihar, Jharkhand, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu is not yet **digitized**.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** approved the creation of the National Bench of the **Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)** to ensure better resolution of GST-related disputes. The National Bench would be set up in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ **Anushree Jindal**, daughter-in-law of JSW Group Chairman **Sajjan Jindal** has launched her maiden business venture – **Svamaan Financial Services**, a **microfinance company** with **Rs.10 Crore** "**Personal Family Money**" as seed capital.
  - ✓ Svamaan Financial Services aims to promote **financial inclusion** for **rural woman** and **micro-enterprises**. It will operate initially in **Karnataka** and **Maharashtra** and plans to enter eastern markets of Odisha and Chhatisgarh by **2020**.
- ❖ As per a report published by **Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited (CRISIL)**, **Bihar** has been ranked the **Top State** in terms of **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** by clocking a growth rate of **11.3 per cent** in financial year 2017-2018.
  - ✓ **Bihar: Capital:** Patna, **Chief Minister:** Nitish Kumar, **Governor:** Lal Ji Tandon.
- ❖ **Shri Baba Kalyani**, Chairman & MD, **M/s. Bharat Forge Ltd** led a committee which constituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to study the existing **Special Economical Zone (SEZ)** policy of India submitted its report to Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation **Suresh Prabhu** in **New Delhi**.



- ❖ The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** organised an **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Awareness Programme** at **Vadodara, Gujarat**. It is organised in collaboration with **3 Insolvency Professional Agencies**, namely, the Indian Institute of Insolvency Professionals of ICAI (lead partner), the ICSI Institute of Insolvency Professionals, and the Insolvency Professional Agency of Institute of Cost Accountants of India.
- ❖ The **Supreme Court** has upheld the **constitutional validity of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code**.
  - ✓ As per IBC, the committee can only consist of financial creditors who assess and vote on resolution plans submitted by interested bidders.
- ❖ The **India Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Report 2018** has been released **Kochi based Institute of Small Enterprises and Development** at the **South India MSME Summit 2019** in **Bengaluru**.
  - ✓ MSMEs need radical reforms to solve its pressing problems and to utilize its potential.
  - ✓ The mainstream debates on MSME problems are confined to the limited areas of technology, finance, and start-up support etc. The impact of more crucial external influences such as policy failures demonetization and GST implementation has remained unanswered.
- ❖ The **Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has set up a panel headed by **Praveen Kutumbe**, to identify **Domestically Systematically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)** and an augmented regulatory framework is logically established in this regard.
  - ✓ **IRDAI: Headquarter:** Hyderabad, **Chairperson:** Subhash Chandra Khuntia.
- ❖ **SBI Card** and **Etiad Guest**, have joined hands to launch a **travel specific Visa credit card** for members and Indian travellers.
  - ✓ This is the first international co-brand partnership of SBI Card, the country's second largest credit card issuer.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** it will inject **Rs 37,500 crore** into the system through the **purchase of government securities** in **February** to increase liquidity.
- ❖ The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** proposed a new set of relaxed norms for **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)** and **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)** to increase access to investors.
  - ✓ The REITs and InvITs are listed entities that mainly invest in income-producing assets, the earnings of which are mostly distributed to their shareholders. They generally get special tax treatment.

## Preparation of All Upcoming Govt. Exam in - 2019

**Expected Vacancy - 1,00,000+**



જેવી પરીક્ષાઓ માટેના વર્ગો દર **સોમવાર** થી હવે **ભરૂચ** માં શરૂ

વધુ માહિતી માટે આજે જ સંસ્થાનો સંપર્ક કરો **Contact : 70962 37555**

### CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- ❖ The **Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP)**, **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**, along with **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)**, is organising the **4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Device** sector in **Bengaluru**.
- ❖ Report titled '**Growth Outlook for 2019**', **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** stated that India will remain the fastest growing major economy with **GDP growth** estimated to be **7.5%** in **FY19**.
  - ✓ **CII: Headquarter:** New Delhi, **President:** Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal.
- ❖ **Airport Authority of India (AAI)** signed MoU with **Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER)** for joint research programs in the field of **Communication Navigation and Surveillance (CNS)**.
- ❖ The **Airports Authority of India** has **banned** the single-use **plastic items** at its **129 airports** across the country.

- ❖ A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between **Indian Highways Management Company Limited** (IMHCL) and leading **Oil Marketing Companies** (OMCs) like BPCL, HPCL and IOCL for sale of **FASTags** through their **petrol pumps**.
  - ✓ FASTag is an **Electronic Toll Collection System** operated by the **National Highway Authority of India** (NHAI).
  - ✓ FASTag employs **Radio-frequency Identification** (RFID) technology.
- ❖ Housing finance company **Aadhar Housing Finance** has received fresh subsidy worth **Rs 175.56 crore** under **Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme** (CLSS) from **National Housing Bank** (NHB).
  - ✓ **NHB: Headquarter:** New Delhi, **MD & CEO:** Smt. Dakshita Das.
- ❖ **IRCTC** tied up with **Bharti AXA General insurance company** to provide **free travel insurance** to the air travellers.
- ❖ The **Union Minister** for Civil Aviation **Suresh Prabhu** released the **Vision 2040 document** in the **Global Aviation Summit 2019**. The Global Aviation Summit 2019 is organized in **Mumbai** with the theme '**Flying for All**'.
- ❖ The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by the Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has given its approval to the project for capacity expansion of **Numaligarh Refinery** from **3 MMTPA (Million Metric Tonne Per Annum)** to **9 MMTPA**. It involves setting up of crude oil pipeline from Paradip to Numaligarh and product pipeline from **Numaligarh to Siliguri** at a cost of **Rs.22,594 crore**.
- ❖ The **Government** announced that **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited** (BHEL) and **Libcoin** are in dialogue to form a world class consortium to initially build the **first lithium ion battery plant in India**.
- ❖ **Microsoft India** launched a new e-commerce platform '**re-weave.in**' under project **ReWeave** to aid handloom weavers.
  - ✓ The e-commerce platform would connect artisans to the buyers directly enabling them to expand to newer customers and markets.
- ❖ **India's** premier container port **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust** (JNPT) has become **India's** only port to get listed among the top **30 global container ports** in **Top 100 Container Ports** report.
- ❖ The **Competition Commission of India** gave approval to **Reliance Industries** for the acquisition of **Den Networks and Hathway Cable and Datacom**. Reliance acquired **66%** in DEN and **51.3%** in Hathway for total cost of **Rs 5,230 crore**.
- ❖ The **Swedish aerospace and defence company** (Saab) and **Airports Authority of India** (AAI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore **air traffic management** (ATM) solutions for airports operating under the regional connectivity scheme, **UDAN**.
- ❖ The **Southern Railway** has bagged the number **one position** for **cleanliness** in all the 17 railway zones in the country.
  - ✓ This achievement was under the category of other than **Premium Category trains** in the recent **Trains Cleanliness Survey** conducted by **IRCTC** on all India level.
  - ✓ The survey is conducted **once a year** to periodically monitor the progress of '**Swachh Rail Swachh Bharat**' mission.
- ❖ The '**Tata**' brand has entered the list of **Top 100 most valuable global brands**, according to the **Brand Finance Global 500, 2019 report**.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** dedicated **Kochi Refinery project** and **IOCL LPG Bottling Plant** to the Nation in **Kochi, Kerala**. Prime Minister also laid a foundation stone for **Petrochemical Complex**.
  - ✓ PM also laid the foundation stone for **Skill Development Institute** at **Ettumanoor, Kerala**.
  - ✓ Also, He laid the foundation stone of **AIIMS** in Tamil Nadu's **Madurai**.
- ❖ The **SBI** in-principal approved a loan of **Rs.700 crore** to the **Machilipatnam Urban Development Authority** (MUDA) with nearly **500 acres** in the **Machilipatnam Industrial Corridor** as security, **Andhra Pradesh**.

### **DEFENCE & SECURITY**

- ❖ **1<sup>st</sup> January 2018**, the **Defence Research and Development Organisation** (DRDO) celebrated its establishment day, the DRDO day, throughout its laboratories and facilities in the country.
  - ✓ **DRDO: Headquarters:** New Delhi, **Chairman:** Dr G Satheesh Reddy.
- ❖ The **Defence India Startup Challenge** has been launched by the **Defence Innovation Organisation** to boost innovations under the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) scheme. The initiative has been launched with support from the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, Atal Innovation Mission (NITI Aayog).
- ❖ **Indian Army** and **Punjab National Bank** (PNB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the **Defence Salary Package**.
- ❖ The **2<sup>nd</sup> edition** of **India-Myanmar** bilateral Army exercise **IMBEX 2018-19** has commenced at Chandi Mandir military station in **Haryana** that houses the headquarter of the **Western Command** of the Indian Army.
- ❖ The Union Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated **Defence Industrial Corridor** in the **Tiruchirapalli** district of **Tamil Nadu**. During the inauguration, investments worth over **Rs 3,100 crore**.



- ❖ Union Minister of State for Defence **Subhash Bhamre** announced that **Nashik** in Maharashtra will be the site of the country's **2<sup>nd</sup> defence innovation hub** after **Coimbatore** in **Tamil Nadu**.
- ❖ The Government has, approved Setting up of **3 Naval air Squadrons** in **Gujarat** and **Tamil Nadu**.
- ❖ **National Conference on Self Reliance in Defence Manufacturing** is organised at **Hyderabad**. The National Conference is being held by Forum for **Integrated National Security** in association with **Indigenous Defence Entrepreneurs Association**.
- ❖ The Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Armoured Systems Complex (ASC)**, developed by **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** at **Hazira** near **Surat** in **Gujarat**. This Armoured Systems Complex (ASC) is the country's **first** private facility where the **K9 Vajra** self-propelled **Howitzer guns** will be manufactured.
- ❖ **Indian Police Service (IPS)** officer **Aparna Kumar** who is on deputation to **Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** become the **1<sup>st</sup> woman** Indian Police Service (IPS) and **ITBP officer** to successfully conquer the **South Pole**.
- ❖ **Indian Navy** undertook a **first** of its kind **multi-agency drill**, covering the entire **7,516 km-long** Indian coastline and **exclusive economic zone** and involving **13 coastal states** and **Union Territories** to check the efficacy of maritime security and surveillance- **Exercise Sea Vigil**.
  - ✓ The 2-day exercise, Sea Vigil has a deployment of 150 ships, 40 aircraft and a number of other strategic assets of the Navy and Coast Guard.
- ❖ The **Northeast Railway** sector has launched a dedicated woman squad '**JYOTI BAHINI**' to enhance security of women in railway station and trains. The '**Joymati Bahini**' was launched recently by **NF Railway's Inspector General** and Principal Chief Security Commissioner **B B Mishra**. This has been launched in **Kamkhya station** of **Guwahati**.
  - ✓ **Assam: Capital:** Dispur, **Chief Minister:** Sarbananda Sonowal, **Governor:** Jagdish Mukhi.
- ❖ **Indian and Japanese** Coast Guards started disaster, search and **rescue exercises** off the coast of **Yokohama** in **Japan**. **ICGS Shaunak** is the main **Indian Coast Guard Ship** taking part in the drills.
  - ✓ **Indian Coast Guard: Headquarter:** New Delhi, **Director General:** Rajendra Singh.
  - ✓ **Japan: Capital:** Tokyo, **Currency:** Yen, **Prime Minister:** Shinzo Abe.
- ❖ **Indian Africa Field Training Exercise (IAFTX)** will be held at **Aundh Military Station** and **College of Military Engineering, Pune** from **18 March to 27 March 2019**.
  - ✓ IAFTX joint exercise is being conducted between **India** and a dozen **African Countries**.
  - ✓ The joint exercise will see participation from **Nigeria, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia, Namibia, Mozambique** and **Uganda**.
  - ✓ **Maharashtra: Capital:** Mumbai, **Chief Minister:** Devendra Fadnavis, **Governor:** C Vidyasagar Rao.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- ❖ 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**.
- ❖ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has launched an outreach programme called **Samwad with Students**. During Samwad with Students on **1<sup>st</sup> January** Isro chairman **K Sivan** interacted with **40 students** and **10 teachers** from select schools.
  - ✓ ISRO's **outreach programme** was aimed at motivating young India and tapping their scientific potential.
- ❖ **China's Chang'e 4** probe spacecraft has become the **first** spacecraft to land on the far side of the **Moon**.
  - ✓ Chang'e 4 is a Chinese **lunar exploration mission** that aims to achieve soft-landing on the far side of the Moon. The mission aims to deliver samples of Moon rock and soil to Earth.
- ❖ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** Chairman **Dr. K Sivan** stated that the Union Government has allocated **10,900 crore rupees** for the development of **40 satellite launch vehicles** in the next 4 years.
- ❖ **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**.
- ❖ 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. **Cyclone warning** for Andaman Islands is "**ORANGE MESSAGE**".
  - ✓ Different colour codes as mentioned below are being used since post monsoon season of 2006 the different stages of the cyclone warning bulletins as desired by the **National Disaster Management**.

Stage of warning	Colour code
Cyclone Alert	Yellow.
Cyclone Warning	Orange.
Post landfall out look	Red.





- ❖ IIT Kharagpur will launch a 6-month course on **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **Machine Learning** for working professionals and engineering students.
- ❖ The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** launched the **UNNATI (UNISpace Nano-satellite Assembly and Training)** by ISRO programme at the U R Rao Satellite Centre, **Bengaluru**.
  - ✓ UNNATI is a capacity building programme on **Nanosatellite** development.
- ❖ **IIT Hyderabad** has announced the launch of a full-fledged bachelor's programme in **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** technology. IIT Hyderabad has become the **first institute** in the country to launch full-fledged Bachelor's programme in AI technology.
- ❖ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has announced **Young Scientist Programme** to inculcate and nurture space research fervour in young minds.
  - ✓ The Young Scientist Programme are: It would be a 1 month programme.
  - ✓ Mostly **8<sup>th</sup> standard** passed out students will be given lecturers and access to research laboratories.
  - ✓ **3 students** from each of the **29 States** and **7 Union Territories** will be selected for the Young Scientist program
  - ✓ Apart from this, On the New Year day, Isro had organised **Samwad with Students** and an announcement was made about the **Student Outreach Programme**.
- ❖ **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** chairman **K Sivan** Country's **first manned** space flight **Gaganyaan** will send **3 humans** into space for 7 days by **December 2021** and that **two unmanned** space missions to be launched in the year **2020** and **2021**.
- ❖ **Japan** launched the **Epsilon-4** rocket carrying 7 satellites including **world's first** artificial **meteor** shower blasted into space from the Uchinoura space centre by the **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)**.
- ❖ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has launched the **Kalamsat-V2** from **Sriharikota** space centre.
  - ✓ The satellite is named after former president and Indian scientist **Dr Abdul Kalam**.
- ❖ Navy Chief Admiral **Sunil Lanba** commissioned new Naval Air Base '**INS KOHASSA**' at Diglipur, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
  - ✓ INS Kohassa being the **third air base** in Andaman and Nicobar Islands will be used for surveillance of Chinese ships and submarines entering the Indian Ocean through Malacca Strait.
- ❖ The word **Nari Shakti** is chosen as the **word of the Year 2018** by the **Oxford dictionaries**. The announcement regarding this was made in the **Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF)**.
- ❖ The **Union Minister** for Science and Technology inaugurated the **3 Department of Science and Technology (DST)** mission centres at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (**IIT-M**) at the collective cost of **Rs 50 crore**, in Narippaiyur, Ramanathapuram District, Tamil Nadu.
  - ✓ DST -IITM Solar Energy Harnessing Centre, DST- IITM Centre for Sustainable Treatment, Reuse and Management for Efficient, Affordable and Synergistic Solutions for Water (Water-IC for SUTRAM of EASY WATER), and DST-IITM-KGDS Test-bed on Solar Thermal Desalination Solutions.
- ❖ **India** has successfully flight tested **Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM)** from a warship off Odisha coast. The LRSAM successfully destroyed a low flying aerial target. This paves way for its deployment in the armed forces.
  - ✓ LRSAM has been jointly developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**), India and Israel Aerospace Industries (**IAI**) for the Indian Navy.
- ❖ **IIT Ropar (Panjab)** has launched an android app '**Roshni**' to help the blind in **recognizing the denomination of the currency notes**, using image processing and analytics. At present, notes of **Rs 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 2,000** are in circulation, which the blind people find it difficult to recognize due to their size and the tactile marks. The app can recognize both old and new notes and gives **audio information** as to which note you are holding in your hands.
- ❖ **Bharat Fritz Werner Ltd (BFW)**, a Bengaluru-based machining solution provider, has partnered with **Universal Robots**, a Danish robot maker and a leader in collaborative robots, to co-create robots for **MSME sector**.

## SPORTS

- ❖ **Smriti Mandhana** has won the **Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award** for the **ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year** and also been named as **the ICC Women's ODI Player of the Year**.
- ❖ **India** retain **top spot** in **ICC's year-end test rankings**, following a famous 137-run win in Melbourne Test against **Australia, England** and **New Zealand** at **second** and **third** place while **Australia** placed **fifth**.
- ❖ The **Hopman Cup** which is an annual international **eight-team** indoor hard court tennis tournament was held in Perth, Western **Australia**.
  - ✓ This year Switzerland's **Roger Federer** and **Belinda Bencic** to win the **Hopman Cup**.
- ❖ The **24<sup>th</sup> Edition** of **ATP World Tour Tennis tournament**, Maharashtra Open-2019 also known as **Tata Open Maharashtra** organized by **Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP)** was held in **Pune, Maharashtra**.
- ❖ **Jasprit Bumrah** became the **highest international wicket-taker** across formats in **2018**.



- ❖ Indian pugilist **Mary Kom** from **Manipur** has been ranked **No.1** in the **Light Fly (45-48kg)** category by the **International Boxing Association (AIBA)**.
- ❖ South African allrounder **Albie Morkel** retired from all forms of cricket.
- ❖ The **80<sup>th</sup> National Table Tennis Championship** organized by **Odisha State Table Tennis Association (OSTTA)** began at **Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium** in **Cuttack, Odisha**.
- ❖ Indian national cricket team's captain **Virat Kohli** and coach **Ravi Shastri** received the honorary membership of the **Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG)** for their contribution to the sport of cricket.
- ❖ **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** became the **5<sup>th</sup>** player to score **ten thousand** runs for India in **One-day International Cricket**, previously achieved the feat, which include Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid and Virat Kohli.
- ❖ The **Bengaluru Raptors** beat **Mumbai Rockets** in the final of the **Premier Badminton League 2019 (PBL)** at the **Kanteerava Indoor Stadium** in **Bengaluru** to win their maiden 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.
- ❖ **Indian Football team's** Head Coach, **Stephen Constantine** resigned from his post following the exit of Indian team from the **AFC Asian Cup 2019**.
- ❖ **Mohammed Ali Qamar**, India's **first** Commonwealth Games gold medal in boxing, has been named as the **chief coach** for the **Indian women boxers**.
- ❖ **Manu Sawhney**, a veteran media professional, has been appointed the new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the **International Cricket Council (ICC)**.
- ❖ India's **Ankita Raina** has won the **International Tennis Federation's** 25,000-dollar **Women's tournament** in **Singapore**.
- ❖ **Khelo India Youth games 2019** are being held at **Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex** in **Pune**. Previously called as **Khelo India School Games** with the hosts **Maharashtra** walking away with the overall trophy:
  - ✓ They amassed comprising 85 gold, 62 silver and 81 bronze. **Haryana**, were **2<sup>nd</sup>** with 62 gold, 56 silver and 60 bronze for a total of 178 medals, while **Delhi** were **3<sup>rd</sup>** with 48 gold, 37 silver and 51 bronze for a total of 136 medals. **Abhinav Shaw** became the youngest **gold medallist in shooting**.
  - ✓ **Manush Shah** of Gujarat emerged the singles champion in Under-21 table tennis, while **Saubhi Patwari** of West Bengal won the Girls Under-21 singles.
- ❖ The **ICC awards** recognise and honour the **best international cricket players** of the previous 12 months.
  - ✓ The ICC awards 2018 list:
    - **Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy** for ICC Cricketer of the Year: **Virat Kohli**.
    - **ICC Men's Test Player** of the Year: **Virat Kohli**, **ICC ODI Player** of the Year: **Virat Kohli**.
    - **ICC Emerging Player** of the Year: **Rishabh Pant**, **ICC Associate Player** of the Year: **Calum MacLeod**.
    - **ICC Spirit of Cricket award**: **Williamson**, **Umpire of the Year**: **Kumar Dharmasena**.
- ❖ **Mohammed Shami** succeeded the indian record holded by **Irfan Pathan** to became the fastest Indian bowler to claim **100 ODI wickets**. **Shami** got this milestone at his **56<sup>th</sup> match** where as **Irfan** got in his **59<sup>th</sup> match**.
- ❖ **Australian Open** which is the **1<sup>st</sup>** of the **four Grand Slam tennis event** concluded at **Melbourne** in **Australia**.
  - ✓ The Winners of the Australian Open 2019 are:
    - **Women's Singles**: **Naomi Osaka** of **Japan**, **Men's Singles**: **Novak Djokovic** of **Serbia**.
    - **Women's Doubles**: **Samantha Stosur** of **Australia** and **Zhang Shuai** of **China**.
    - **Men's Doubles**: **Pierre-Hugues Herbert** and **Nicolas Mahut** of **France**.
    - **Mixed Doubles**: **Czech Republic's Barbora Krejickova** and **Rajeev Ram** of the **US**.
- ❖ The **Indonesian Masters Badminton Tournament 2019** is organized by the **Badminton Association of Indonesia**. It was the **3<sup>rd</sup>** tournament of the **2019 BWF World Tour**. The tournament was held at the **Istora Gelora Bung Karno** in **Jakarta, Indonesia**. from 22 to 27 January 2019.
  - ✓ The winners under the various categories are listed below:
    - **Women's Singles**: **Saina Nehwal** (**India**), **Men's Singles**: **Anders Antonsen** (**Denmark**).
    - **Women's Doubles**: **Misaki Matsutomo** and **Ayaka Takahashi** (**Japan**).
    - **Men's Doubles**: **Marcus Fernaldi Gideon** and **Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo** (**Indonesia**).
    - **Mixed Doubles**: **Zheng Siwei** and **Huang Yaqiong** (**China**).
- ❖ **Kartik Sharma** from **India** has won the **New South Wales men's Amateur Golf Championship** in **Australia**.
- ❖ **Novak Djokovic** from **Serbia** defeated **Rafael Nadal** to win his **7<sup>th</sup> Australian Open Men's Singles title** at **Melbourne**.
- ❖ **Ambati Rayudu** has been **suspended** from bowling in International Cricket by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
  - ✓ He has been banned after having found his bowling action to be illegal.



**AWARDS & HONOURS**

- ❖ IIT Roorkee professor **Jayanta Kumar Ghosh** was felicitated with the **National Geospatial Award** for Excellence - 2017 (Life Time Achievement Award) by the Indian Society for Remote Sensing for his contribution towards the development of **geospatial science and applications**.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** presented the **National Entrepreneurship Awards 2018** by honouring **30 outstanding young entrepreneurs** and **3 entrepreneurship ecosystem** builders for their exceptional contribution in entrepreneurship development at a ceremony held in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ **Kathak** exponent **Anindita Neogy Anaam** has been honoured with the prestigious **National Nritya Shiromani award** for her contribution towards preserving and promoting the dance form across the world. The award was conferred during the **10<sup>th</sup> Cuttack Mahotsav: International Dance and Music festival**.
- ❖ Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** presented **Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism awards** in 18 categories across print, broadcast, and purely-digital for outstanding work done in 2017.
- ❖ The **76<sup>th</sup> Annual Golden Globe Awards** were announced at the **Beverly Hilton Hotel in California**, the USA. These annual awards honour the best in **Motion Pictures and Television for the year 2018**.
- ❖ **S. Vijay Kumar**, Senior Deputy Editor with **The Hindu** in Chennai, was presented the **Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award**.
- ❖ Industrialist and Godrej Group Chairman **Adi Godrej** was conferred the Institute of Company Secretaries of India **Lifetime Achievement Award** for 'Translating Excellence in Corporate Governance into Reality' in **Mumbai**.
- ❖ The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** pavilion received '**Exhibitor of the Year Award**' at **106<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress** held at Lovely Professional University (LPU), Phagwara, **Punjab**.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was awarded **1<sup>st</sup> ever Philip Kotler Presidential Award**.
- ❖ Renowned writer **Namita Gokhale** was awarded **Sushila Devi Literature Award** for her work "**Things to Leave Behind**". She was honoured in the '**Best Book of Fiction Written by a Woman Author**' category at the inaugural edition of Bhopal Literature and Art Festival.
- ❖ **National** award-winning filmmaker **Buddhadeb Dasgupta** has been honoured with the **Lifetime Achievement Award** by the **West Bengal Film Journalists Association (WBFJA)**.
- ❖ The **Women and Child Development Ministry** have shortlisted **26 children** for the national award in 2019 for their bravery, social service and exceptional achievement in the fields of innovation, sports and arts.
  - ✓ The **National Selection Committee**, under the Women and Child Development Minister **Maneka Gandhi**, finalised the names of awardees for **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2019**.
- ❖ The **Gandhi Peace Prize** for the years **2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018** was announced on January 16, 2019 by the Union Ministry of Culture.

Year	Awardees	Contribution
2015	<b>Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari</b>	Contribution in rural development, education, development of natural resources.
2016	<b>Akshaya Patra Foundation and Sulabh International</b>	Akshaya Patra Foundation was chosen for its contribution in providing mid-day meals to millions of children across India.
		Sulabh International was chosen for its contribution in improving the condition of sanitation in India and emancipation of manual scavengers.
2017	<b>Ekal Abhiyan Trust</b>	Contribution in providing education for rural and tribal children in remote areas pan India, rural empowerment, gender and social equality.
2018	<b>Yohei Sasakawa</b>	For his contribution in Leprosy Eradication in India and across the world.

- ❖ **Chairman and Managing Director** of Reliance Industries, **Mukesh Ambani** who is also the **Richest Indian**, has been featured in the Top "**Global Thinkers 2019**" ranking released by the **Prestigious Foreign Policy Publishing**.
- ❖ The **Japan Prize Foundation** announced India born professor **Dr. Rattan Lal** as the recipient of the **2019 Japan Prize** in the field of "**Biological Production, Ecology**".
- ❖ Detained Chinese lawyer, **Yu Wensheng** has won the **Franco-German Human Rights Award** for his exceptional contribution to the **protection and promotion of human rights**.
- ❖ Indian female wrestler **Vinesh Phogat** has become the **first** Indian athlete to receive a nomination in the prestigious **Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award**.
- ❖ The **1<sup>st</sup> Sheikh Saud International Prize for Materials Research** has been awarded to **C N R Rao**.



- ❖ The Governor of Tamil Nadu **Banwarilal Purohit** presented the **Sansad Ratna Awards** in **Chennai**.
  - ✓ **Anurag Thakur**, Bharatiya Janata Party leader and party's chief whip in the **Lok Sabha**, was bestowed with **Sansad Ratna Award** for distinguished performance as a parliamentarian.
  - ✓ He is the **first MP** from the **BJP**, only Member of Parliament from **north India**, to have been awarded the Jury Committee Special Award.
- ❖ The **Rashtriya Bal Puraskar** was presented by President **Ram Nath Kovind** at Rashtrapati Bhavan in **New Delhi**.
  - ✓ President conferred awards to **26 awardees** including one joint award for **National Child Award** (now renamed as **Bal Shakti Puraskar**) under the category of **innovation, scholastic, sports, arts & culture, social service and bravery**.
- ❖ The **27<sup>th</sup>** 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**.
- ❖ US-based Indian poet **Ranjani Murali** has been bestowed the '**Prabha Khaitan Woman's Voice Award**' at the Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (**AKLF-2019**). The award carries a cash prize of **Rs 1 lakh** and a citation.
- ❖ **No Presents Please** is an English Novel, wins **DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2018**.
  - ✓ The award was announced during the **Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Meet**.
- ❖ **India's** highest peacetime gallantry honour, **Ashoka Chakra** was awarded to **Lance Naik Nazir Wani** posthumously. The award was presented by President **Ram Nath Kovind** was received by Wani's wife and mother at the **Republic Day** celebrations held at Rajpath.
  - ✓ **Lance Naik Nazir Wani** also holds the distinction of being the **first Kashmiri** to be conferred the **Ashoka Chakra**.
- ❖ The **Bharat Ratna award 2019** has been bestowed upon former President **Pranab Mukherjee**, **Nanaji Deshmukh** and singer **Bhupen Hazarika**.
- ❖ The **Government of India** has announced the **Padma Awards 2019**. The **112** prominent personalities honoured with the **Padma Awards** include comprises **4 Padma Vibhushan, 14 Padma Bhushan** and **94 Padma Shri Awards**.
- ❖ **Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)** has been awarded the best **miniratna PSU** in **strategic performance**.
  - ✓ The award, comprising of a trophy, was presented to NRL MD **S K Barua** by Member of Parliament **Manoj Tiwari** and **Poonam Dhillon** at an award function held in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ '**Period. End of Sentence**', an **India** set film on the taboos around menstruation and featuring the real '**Pad Man**', has made it to the **Oscar nomination**.
- ❖ **Assam government** has conferred the **Republic Day Journalism Award 2019** to veteran journalist and former editor **Dhirendra Nath Chakraborty**. Chakraborty has been honored for his lifelong contribution to journalism in the state.
- ❖ The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** had launched **Swasth Bharat Yatra** to amplify its **Eat Right India initiative**. **Swasth Bharat Yatra** was a **100-day** consumer outreach programme.
  - ✓ The Yatra saw the participation of around **2.5 crore** people across various States and UTs. It also led to the creation of **21,000 local 'Eat Right Champions'** who would sustain this movement in the future.
    - **Best State Overall: Tamil Nadu.**
    - **Best States with a population above 3 crore:** Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.
    - **Best States having a population less than 3 crore:** Punjab, Goa and Delhi.
- ❖ Country's premier agri-research institute **the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has bagged **first prize** for its tableau on '**Kisan Gandhi**', displayed at this year's **Republic Day parade**.
  - ✓ The ICAR tableau with the theme "**Mishrit Kheti, Khushiyan Ki Kheti**".
  - ✓ It showcased the importance of dairy farming, use of indigenous breeds and livestock-based organic agriculture for rural prosperity.
- ❖ **India** received the **Award of Excellence for 'Best in Show'** at the recently concluded **New York Times Travel Show 2019**.
  - ✓ The **New York Times Travel Show 2019** is the largest travel show in North America that was held during **January 25-27, 2019** in **New York, USA**.

### PERSON APPOINTED /RESIGNED

- ❖ **Saurabh Kumar** has been appointed as the **Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF)** and chairman of the **Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)** in **Kolkata**.
- ❖ President **Ram Nath Kovind** has nominated Justice **AK Sikri** as Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority (**NALSA**). He will be replacing Justice **Madan B Lokur**.
- ❖ The Panel headed by **IIT-Hyderabad** chairman **B V R Mohan Reddy** has suggested **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** **not to allow** setting up of new **Engineering colleges** from **2020**.
- ❖ Justice **Thottathil B. Radhakrishnan** has taken charge as **first** Chief Justice of **Telangana High Court**.
- ❖ **Jair Bolsonaro** has been sworn-in as new president of **Brazil** for a four-year term.
  - ✓ **Brazil: Capital:** Brasilia, **Currency:** Brazilian real.



- ❖ **Vinod Kumar Yadav**, the **South Central Railway (SCR)** general manager, has been appointed as Chairman of the **Railway Board**. He succeeded **Ashwani Lohani**.
- ❖ **Pramod Kumar Singh** was appointed secretary of the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**.  
✓ **CCI: Headquarters:** New Delhi, **Chairperson:** Shri. Ashok Kumar Gupta.
- ❖ Private sector lender **Axis Bank** Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) **Shikha Sharma** retired.
- ❖ **A N Jha**, Secretary, Expenditure, has been appointed as new **Finance Secretary**.
- ❖ The **Department of Financial Services** announced appointment of **Hemant Bhargava**, Managing Director, **Life Insurance Corporation of India**, as the Acting Chairman.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved the appointment of **V Vaidyanathan** as MD and CEO of **IDFC First Bank** for a period of 3 years.
- ❖ **Shri Chhabilendra Roul** was appointed as the new **Secretary, Department of Fertilizers**, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India.
- ❖ **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**.
- ❖ The appointment of **Kumar Rajesh Chandra** as the Director General of **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** has been approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**.
- ❖ **Gita Gopinath** has joined **International Monetary Fund** as its chief economist. She is the **1<sup>st</sup> woman** to occupy the post of chief economist of IMF. She is the **11<sup>th</sup>** chief economist of the IMF.
- ❖ The **Supreme Court of India** has **reinstated** CBI director **Alok Kumar Verma**, setting aside the Centre's order to divest him of his powers.
- ❖ Taiwanese president **Tsai Ing-wen** has appointed **Su Tseng-chang** as the island's **new Prime Minister**.
- ❖ **Nicolas Maduro** was sworn in as **Venezuelan President**.  
✓ **Venezuela: Capital:** Caracas, **Currency:** Venezuelan bolivar.
- ❖ **Ajit Mohan** officially took over as **Facebook India's** new **Vice President** and **MD**.
- ❖ **World Bank** President **Jim Yong Kim** announced that he will **step down** from his position on **February 1**.
- ❖ **Ashok Chawla** resigned as chairman of the **National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE)**.
- ❖ **Tulsi Gabbard**, the **1<sup>st</sup> Hindu** elected to **US Congress** and a 4-time **Democratic lawmaker**.
- ❖ The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** approved the appointment of senior bureaucrat **Jaideep Govind** as the Secretary General, **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**.
- ❖ Justices **Dinesh Maheshwari** and **Sanjiv Khanna** were sworn-in as **Supreme Court Judges**.
- ❖ President **Ram Nath Kovind** has appointed senior advocates **Sanjay Jain** and **K M Nataraj** as **Additional Solicitor Generals of India**.
- ❖ **Prabhat Singh**, has been appointed as new **Director General (Investigation)** in the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**.
- ❖ **MC Mary Kom** has been named as the **event ambassador** for the **16<sup>th</sup> Tata Mumbai Marathon** to be held on **January 20**.
- ❖ **Andry Rajoelina** has been sworn-in as the new President of **Madagascar**.
- ❖ **Yes bank** got its approval to appoint **Deutsche Bank India** head **Ravneet Singh Gill** as the successor to **Rana Kapoor**. his tenure will begin from **March 1, 2019**.
- ❖ **Sultan Abdullah** of **Pahang** has been elected as the new **King of Malaysia**.
- ❖ **Ronojoy Dutta** has been appointed as **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **IndiGo**.
- ❖ **Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh** has been appointed **Regional Director** for **World Health Organization South-East Asia**, for a **2<sup>nd</sup> five-year** term.
- ❖ The **Broadcast Audience Research Council of India (BARC India)** has elected **Punit Goenka** MD and CEO of **Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL)** as the Chairman.

### **BOOKS & AUTHORS**

- ❖ **Malala Yousafzai**, the new book, **"We Are Displaced"** about my Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World.
- ❖ **'A Crusade Against Corruption'**: book by **Manohar Manoj** launched by Vice-Chairman of Rajya Sabha, **Harivansh Narayan Singh** in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ The **Atal Tinkering Lab Handbook** **Nayee Dishayen**, **Naye Nirman**, **Naya Bharat** was released by the **NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission**.
- ❖ Prime Minister released two books which are **"Kashi: The Universe of Crafts and Textiles"** and **"Indian Textiles: History, splendor, Grandeur"**.
- ❖ Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** launched the book **'Universal Brotherhood Through Yoga'** in **New Delhi**. The book is compiled by **Bharatiya Sanskrit Pitham**.



**OBITUARY**

- ❖ **Norman Gimbel**, the Oscar & Grammy-winning American lyricist has passed away in **New York**.
- ❖ Veteran Kannada actor **C H Loknath** died.
- ❖ Veteran actor-writer **Kader Khan** passed away at 81 in Canada.
- ❖ Renowned Bengali writer and Sahitya Akademi awardee **Dibyendu Palit** passed away.
- ❖ Dronacharya awardee cricket coach **Ramakant Achrekar**, who coached Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar passed away.
- ❖ Former banker and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader **Meera Sanyal** passed away.
- ❖ Former Ranji cricketer **Rajesh Ghodse** passed away.
- ❖ Veteran Bengali writer **Atin Bandyopadhyay** passed away.
- ❖ Former India hockey player **Raghubir Singh Bhola**, has passed away.
- ❖ **Krishna Sobti** (94), the famous Hindi fiction writer and essayist, has passed away.
- ❖ **Former Defence Minister** and Anti-Emergency Crusader **George Fernandes** passed away.
- ❖ Malayalam director and screenwriter **Lenin Rajendran** passed away.
- ❖ Fields Medal-Winning Mathematician **Sir Michael Atiyah** passed away.
- ❖ **Indian National Lok Dal** (INLD)'s senior leader and MLA **Jasvinder Singh Sandhu** passed away.
- ❖ Pulitzer Prize-winning poet **Mary Oliver** passed away.
- ❖ The World's oldest man, **Masazo Nonaka** of **Japan**, has died at the age of **113**.

**Days|Week|Year**

- ❖ 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019:- **World Braille Day**.
- ❖ 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019:- **Non Resident Day** or **Bharatiya Pravasi Day**.
- ❖ 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019:- **World Hindi Day** (14<sup>th</sup> September National Hindi Diwas).
- ❖ 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019:- **26<sup>th</sup> Army Air Defence Day**.
- ❖ 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019:- **National Youth Day**.
- ❖ 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019:- **India Army India**.
- ❖ 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019:- **Armed Force Veterans Day**.
- ❖ 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019:- **Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura celebrating statehood day**.
- ❖ 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019:- **National Girl Child Day** (International Day of the Girl Child-11<sup>th</sup> October).  
✓ **Theme:-** Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow.
- ❖ 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019:- **International Day of Education**.
- ❖ 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019:- **9<sup>th</sup> National Voters Day**.  
✓ **Theme:-** No Voter To Be Left Behind.
- ❖ 27<sup>th</sup> January 2019:- **International Holocaust Remembrance Day**.
- ❖ 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019:- **International Year of the Periodic Table**.
- ❖ 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019:- **World Leprosy Day**.  
✓ **Theme:** Ending discrimination, stigma and prejudice.

**Preparation of All Upcoming Govt. Exam in - 2019****Expected Vacancy - 1,00,000+**

જેવી પરીક્ષાઓ માટેના વર્ગો દર **સોમવાર** થી હવે **વલસાડ** માં શરૂ

વધુ માહિતી માટે આજે જ સંસ્થાનો સંપર્ક કરો **Contact : 81401 37555**