

January - 14

## **NATIONAL**

### **National Draft Policy on rare diseases**

- ❖ The policy has proposed one-time fund of Rs 15 lakhs to treat rare diseases under Ayushman Bharat.
- ❖ The policy was drafted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ Under the policy, certain medical institutes will be certified as Centre of Excellence for rare diseases.
- ❖ It includes AIIMS of New Delhi, Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Science, Lucknow, King Edward Medical Hospital, Mumbai and four others.

### **ASER Report 2019**

- ❖ The Non-Profit Organization Pratham released its annual report, Annual Status of Education Report, 2019.
- ❖ The report is based on the survey conducted in 26 districts that covers 36,000 children in the age group of 4 to 8 years.

#### **Key Findings**

- ❖ The report says that around 56.8% of girls and 50.4% of boys are enrolled in government schools.
- ❖ Number of girls enrolled in government schools is higher than number of boys.
- ❖ On the other hand, number of boys enrolled in private institutions is higher than that of girls.
- ❖ According to RTE act, 2009 (Right to Education act), children should enter Class I at the age of 6.
- ❖ But according to the report, 4 out of every 10 children entering Class I are less than 5 years old.

### **Railway News**

- ❖ The Indian Railways has signed MoU with the RailTel, a Mini Ratna Public Sector Undertaking in order to implement Phase II of e-office programme.
- ❖ E-Office system is an integrated file management system that will help employees manage data, content electronically.
- ❖ E-Office aims at adopting paperless culture.



- ❖ This will help reduce operational cost and also reduce carbon foot print.
- ❖ It will be implemented by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- ❖ The South-Central Railways and SBI signed MoU to implement door step banking in 585 railway stations.
- ❖ The door step banking will provide uniform cash remittance mechanism in all the railway stations.

### NIC

- ❖ The National Informatics Centre was established in 1976.
- ❖ It operates under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ❖ It provides infrastructure to deliver Government IT services and also the initiatives of Digital India.

### **NEAT initiative**

- ❖ The NIIT (National institute of Information Technology), a multi-national company has been selected as one of the EdTech companies for the NEAT initiative.
- ❖ The NIIT will work with AICTE to implement the vision of Ministry of HRD (Human and Resource Development) on NEAT.
- ❖ NIIT was established in 1991.
- ❖ It is a non-profit university of higher education and research.
- ❖ The National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) was launched to customize learning process using Artificial Intelligence.
- ❖ The NEAT programme is being implemented by AICTE.

### **Sixth Island Development Agency meeting**

- ❖ The Union Home Minister chaired the sixth Island Development Agency meeting in New Delhi.
- ❖ The meeting focused on “Green Development in the Islands to reach new heights”.
- ❖ The Island Development Agency (IDA) has taken up scientifically assessed sustainable development goals in order to improve growth of the Islands.
- ❖ The plan is to be implemented in four islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and five islands of Lakshadweep Islands.
- ❖ In the second phase 12 more islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and 5 Islands of Lakshadweep islands are to be covered.

## INTERNATIONAL

### SCO's 8 Wonders

- ❖ The Statue of Unity that was inaugurated by PM Modi in October 2018 has been included in 8 wonders of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization).
- ❖ The statue was a monumental tribute to Sardar Vallabhai Patel.
- ❖ The Statue was inaugurated on the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel.



- ❖ It is the world's tallest statue.

### 8 Wonders

- Statue of Unity in India
- Daming Palace in China
- Navruz Palace in Tajikistan
- Mughals Heritage in Pakistan
- Tamgaly Gorge in Kazakhstan
- Po-i-Kalan Complex in Uzbekistan
- The Golden Ring of Russia
- Lahore, the Mughals heritage in Pakistan.

## ECONOMY

### Regulations of Drones

- ❖ The Indian Aviation Ministry announced that registration of all drones in the country is mandatory.
- ❖ Every drone is to be provided with a Unique Identification Number (UIN) under the scheme.



- ❖ The Government has opened an online portal called “digital sky” for the users to register their drones.
- ❖ The drone owners failing to register their drones will face actions under the Aircraft act, 1934 and Indian Penal Code.
- ❖ The aircraft act governs aviation in India.
- ❖ Major General Soleimani was killed by the US military drone fired missile in Baghdad airport in January 2020.

### Hallmarked gold artifacts

- ❖ The Government announced that Indian jewellers shall be allowed to sell hallmarked gold artifacts that are made of 14, 18 and 22 carat gold alone.
- ❖ Also, it is mandatory for all jewellers to get compulsory hallmark.
- ❖ Currently gold hallmarking is voluntary.
- ❖ The mandatory ruling is to be implemented from January 15, 2021.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### New Fuel

- ❖ The Ministry of Defence announces new fuel upgradation for Indian Navy with revised technical specifications.
- ❖ The High Flash High Speed Diesel (HFHSD) was launched.
- ❖ The aim of the new fuel introduction is to reduce carbon footprint.

### Shopper malware

- ❖ A new Trojan called Shopper malware is increasing its presence among smart phone users.
- ❖ The malware is screening unsolicited ads and flashing fake reviews.
- ❖ Prior to Shopper Malware, the largest such infection was created by “Trojan-Dropper”.
- ❖ This was between October 2019 to November 2019.
- ❖ It affected 14.23% of Indians.
- ❖ Russia was the most affected.

### LCA Tejas

- ❖ The Government of India will acquire around 200 aircrafts.
- ❖ Of these 200, 83 fighter jets are LCA Tejas Mark 1A and are to be procured from HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited).



### About

- ❖ The LCA Tejas was designed by HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) and ADA (Aeronautical Development Agency) in 1980s.
- ❖ It replaced India's MiG-21.

- ❖ So far, LCA Tejas is operating only in India.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Australian Koalas

- ❖ The Australian Koalas population suffered an extraordinary hit in the bush fires of Australia.
- ❖ Australia recorded 2019 as its hottest year on record.
- ❖ The Australian Koalas are to be put under “endangered” from “vulnerable” as 30% of their habitat were destroyed by the fires.
- ❖ The Australian Koalas is herbivorous animals that are native to Australia.
- ❖ They are found in coastal areas of New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia.
- ❖ The IUCN red list currently puts Australian Koala under Vulnerable Category.

### Why were the bush fires severe?

- ❖ The Indian Ocean Dipole was in its positive phase in 2019.
- ❖ This means, the eastern Indian Ocean (lying in the north west of Australia) was cooler than the western Indian.
- ❖ This drew away the moisture from Australia raising temperatures in Australia.
- ❖ The westerlies blowing hot air into the continent increased the fires further fanning them.





## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **Siddha Day – January 13**

- ❖ The 3rd Siddha day was celebrated on January 13th.
- ❖ Every year Agathiar birthday is being observed as SIDDHA DAY.
- ❖ The Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy of the Government of India coordinates and promotes research in the fields of Ayurveda and Siddha medicine.

