

January - 23

NATIONAL

32nd PRAGATI meet

- ❖ Under the Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI), the Prime Minister reviewed projects that are being implemented by the union government and their progress.
- ❖ PRAGATI was launched by PM in March 2015.
- ❖ It is an interactive platform to address grievances of common people.

Tribal Youth Exchange Programme

- ❖ Tribal Youth Exchange Programme is organized by the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- ❖ The programme aims at providing an opportunity to tribal youth to visit different places to understand the culture, language, lifestyles, educational avenues, development activities and educational opportunities.

Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre

- ❖ India recently opens First Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre in Niamey, the capital of Niger, a West African Nation.
- ❖ It is the first centre to be established in Africa by India to honour the memory of Mahatma Gandhi whose 150th birth anniversary was observed in 2019.



Integrated Check Post

- ❖ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepalese PM Oli inaugurated an integrated check post (ICP) at Jogbani-Biratnagar in Bihar.



- ❖ This is the second check post that is being built at the border with Indian Assistance.
- ❖ The aim of the new integrated check post is to facilitate trade and movement of people across the border.
- ❖ The first integrated check post of the countries was built at Raxaul-Birgunj in 2018 in Bihar.



INTERNATIONAL

UNAIDS

- ❖ India participated at the United Nations AIDS (UNAIDS) programme at the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- ❖ The theme of the programme was Theme: Access for all: Leveraging Innovations, Investments and Partnerships for Health.
- ❖ India is the third largest country with HIV epidemic in the world.
- ❖ The AIDS programme in India is implemented by NACO (National AIDS Control Organization).



Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNAIDS

UNICEF • UNDP • UNFPA • UNDCP
UNESCO • WHO • WORLD BANK

Democracy Index

- ❖ The Economic Intelligence Unit released Democracy Index for the year 2019.
- ❖ According to this Index, there are four types of regime: full democracy; flawed democracy; hybrid regime; and authoritarian regime.
- ❖ The index was topped by Norway.
- ❖ Norway was followed by Iceland and Sweden at second and third positions respectively.
- ❖ India was pushed to 51st rank slipping 10 positions as compared to its previous ranking.
- ❖ It is placed in the “flawed democracy” category, which also includes Bangladesh.
- ❖ Other “full democracies” include Germany, the United Kingdom and France.
- ❖ The United States is a “flawed democracy”, in the same category as India.
- ❖ China and North Korea are categorised as “authoritarian regimes”.
- ❖ Pakistan is categorised as a “hybrid democracy”.

Democracy Index 2019

India falls 10 places to 51st position

India slipped 10 places to 51st position in the 2019 Democracy Index's global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit, which cited “erosion of civil liberties” in the country as the primary cause for the downtrend. India's overall score fell from 7.23 in 2018 to 6.90.

Top 5

Rank	Country	Score
1	Norway	9.8
2	Iceland	9.58
3	Sweden	9.39
4	New Zealand	9.26
5	Finland	9.25

Bottom 5

163	Chad	1.61
164	Syria	1.43
165	Central African Republic	1.32
166	Dem Republic of Congo	1.13
167	North Korea	1.08

Saarc nations

Rank	Country	Score
51	India	6.90
69	Sri Lanka	6.27
80	Bangladesh	5.88
91	Bhutan	5.30
92	Nepal	5.28
108	Pakistan	4.25
141	Afghanistan	2.85

Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit Report



About

- ❖ It provides a snapshot of the state of world democracy for 165 independent states and two territories.
- ❖ The Index is based on five categories
 - Electoral process and pluralism.
 - Civil liberties.



- Functioning of government.
- Political participation.
- Political culture.

Ujjwala model – Ghana

- ❖ Ghana announced that the country will replicate the Ujjwala model of LPG connection under the guidance of India (represented by Indian Oil Corporation).
- ❖ This symbolizes India as a global leader in providing clean energy.
- ❖ Under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, 8 crore cooking gas connection were provided to poor women in less than 3 years.
- ❖ The Programme was launched to safeguard health of children and women by replacing firewood with LPG.

China's Birth Rate

- ❖ The birth rate in China has fallen to the lowest in 70 years.
- ❖ Birth rate in 2019 was at 10.48 per 1,000, the lowest since 1949.
- ❖ This fall in birth rate can be largely attributed to China's one-child policy, which came into force in 1979 under then leader Deng Xiaoping.
- ❖ It was adopted that unchecked population growth would lead to economic and environmental catastrophe.
- ❖ Thomas Robert Malthus was the first economist to propose a systematic theory of population.

Judicial Reciprocating territory

- ❖ The Ministry of Law and Justice issued an Extraordinary Gazette Notification, declaring the United Arab Emirates to be a “reciprocating territory” under Section 44A of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908.
- ❖ Section 44A provides the law on the subject of execution of decrees of Courts in India by foreign Courts and vice versa.
- ❖ The notification also declared a list of courts in the UAE to be “superior Courts” under the same section.
- ❖ The decision is believed to help bring down the time required for executing decrees between the two countries.
- ❖ Indian expatriates in the UAE would no longer be able to seek safe haven in their home country if they are convicted in a civil case in the UAE.



- ❖ Apart from UAE, the other countries declared to be “reciprocating territories” are: United Kingdom, Singapore, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Trinidad & Tobago, New Zealand, the Cook Islands (including Niue) and the Trust Territories of Western Samoa, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Aden.

Iran Nuclear Issue

- ❖ Iran has warned to withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) if the European Nations refer the dispute over its atomic programme to the United Nation Security Council.
- ❖ Britain, France and Germany launched a process last week charging Iran with failing to observe the terms of the 2015 nuclear deal.
- ❖ This move could eventually see the Security Council reimpose international sanctions on the country.
- ❖ The landmark 2015 deal reached with Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States gave Iran relief from sanctions in return for curbs on its nuclear programme.

About

- ❖ The NPT is a multilateral treaty aimed at limiting the spread of nuclear weapons.
- ❖ The treaty was signed in 1968 and entered into force in 1970.
- ❖ The Treaty defines nuclear weapon states (NWS) as those that had manufactured and detonated a nuclear explosive device prior to 1 January 1967. All the other states are therefore considered non-nuclear weapon states (NNWS).
- ❖ The five nuclear weapon states are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

ECONOMY

National Startup Advisory Council

- ❖ The Union government has notified the structure of the National Startup Advisory Council.
- ❖ It will be chaired by Commerce and Industry Minister.
- ❖ The council will facilitate public organizations to assimilate innovation with a view to improving public service delivery, promote creation, protection and commercialization of intellectual property rights
- ❖ India ranks 136 on ‘starting a business’ in the World Bank’s ease of doing business table against an overall rank of 63.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Xenobots

- ❖ Scientists in the United States have created the world's first "living machines".
- ❖ These are tiny robots built from the cells of the African clawed frog (*Xenopus laevis*), that can move around on their own.
- ❖ They have named the millimetre-wide robots "xenobots" — after the species of aquatic frog found across sub-Saharan Africa from Nigeria and Sudan to South Africa, *Xenopus laevis*.
- ❖ The xenobots can move toward a target, perhaps pick up a payload (like a medicine that needs to be carried to a specific place inside a patient) and heal themselves after being cut.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Birth anniversary of Subhash Chandra Bose

- ❖ India celebrated 123rd birth anniversary of Subhash Chandra Bose.
- ❖ He was born on January 23, 1897.
- ❖ In order to commemorate Netaji's birth anniversary, The Government of India is inaugurating a temple at Varanasi in the name of the leader (Netaji Temple) with a Dalit woman as a chief priest.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Born January 23, 1897, Bose was one of 14 siblings➤ Twice-elected president of the Congress, founder and president of the All India Forward Bloc, and founder of Provisional Govt of Free India➤ Advocated armed struggle for India's independence➤ Under house arrest before escaping from India in 1940, arrived in Germany 1941➤ Met Hitler and sought military help to fight against the British	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Attempted to rid India of British rule during WWII by enlisting help of Nazi Germany and Japan➤ Formed Azad Hind Fauj (Indian National Army) INA➤ Moved to Japanese-held Sumatra in 1943, where he revamped INA, which fought alongside Japan in an unsuccessful bid to invade India➤ Disappeared in August 1945 after last being seen at Taihoku airport. Believed to have died when his plane crashed
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- ❖ The prayers are to be performed to Bharat Mata at the temple.
- ❖ The temple is to be built in red, white and black colours.
- ❖ The red colour symbolizes revolution, black represents strength and white for peace.



- ❖ In 2017, the Government confirmed that the leader had died on August 18, 1945 in a plane crash.

