

December – 13

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Anil Manibhai Naik has been appointed as the new chairman of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). NSDC is a unique public-private-partnership, working under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.
- ❖ The 24th Governor of Reserve Bank of India, Dr. Urjit Patel, has resigned from his post on 10th December, 2018 citing personal reasons. He succeeded ex-RBI Raghuram Rajan in 4th September 2016 and his term was due till September 2019.
 - With his resignation, He has become the 1st governor since 1990 to step down before the end of his term.
- ❖ The Indian economist Surjit Bhalla announced his resignation from the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC). The PMEAC was set up in **September 2017** by PM as a **5-member** panel.
 - It is currently headed by senior economist and **Niti Aayog member Bibek Debroy**.

TAMIL NADU

TN launches 24x7 helpline '181' for women



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government launched a 24-hour toll free helpline number 181 for women facing domestic violence and sexual harassment.
- ❖ They will get assistance ranging from police help, legal aid or medical services including ambulance.
- ❖ It will be available round-the-clock on all days of the week and women can also get information about the welfare schemes aimed at their benefit.

NATIONAL

India Water Impact Summit 2018



**INDIA
WATER IMPACT
SUMMIT-2018**

5th-7th December, 2018 New Delhi

TO BE INAUGURATED
by
SHRI NITIN GADKARI
UNION MINISTER FOR ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS,
SHIPPING AND WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT
& GANGA REJUVENATION

KEY ASPECTS:

Spotlight on 5 states: Bihar, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal

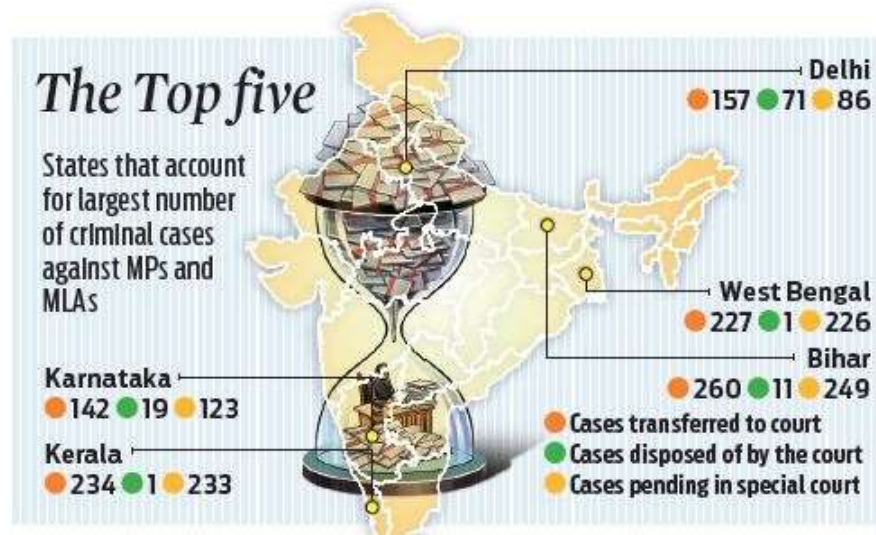
Financing Forum will bring together financial institutions and investors interested in Namami Gange programmes.

Technology and Innovation companies from around the world to showcase their solutions for addressing the problems prevalent in the river basin.

- ❖ The India Water Impact Summit-2018 was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ It was jointly organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga).
- ❖ It is an annual event and for this year the discussions were on rejuvenation of Ganga River Basin.

Special Courts in Bihar/Kerala – Supreme Court

- ❖ The Supreme Court has directed the constitution of special courts in each district of Bihar and Kerala for the trial of pending criminal cases against the present and former MPs and MLAs.
- ❖ A bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices SK Kaul and KM Joseph passed the directions.
- ❖ The SC has given the liberty of constituting as many courts as required in the districts of these 2 states for trial of cases against the legislators.
- ❖ It also directed the High Courts to send back cases from special courts, which were already constituted, to the jurisdictional district courts.



Clean Sea-2018

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has conducted the Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise titled 'Clean Sea - 2018' at sea off Port Blair.
- ❖ The objective of exercise was to ascertain preparedness of IGC, resource agencies and other stakeholders.
- ❖ The preparedness in responding to major oil spill will be in line with provisions of National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP).
- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) under the Ministry of Defence is responsible for the marine environment protection in the maritime zones of India.
- ❖ It is the coordinating authority for responding to oil spills in the Indian waters.

- ❖ It has drawn up NOS-DCP and has established 3 pollution response centres at Mumbai, Chennai and Port Blair.

INTERNATIONAL

1st NATO Country to appoint female chief of Armed Forces

- ❖ The Slovenia's government has appointed a female officer Major General Alenka Ermenc as the head of the armed forces.
- ❖ Thus, Slovenia has become the first NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) nation to appoint a female Chief of Armed Forces.
- ❖ Slovenia, which originally was part of Yugoslavia, joined NATO and the European Union in 2004.
- ❖ NATO is an international alliance that consists of 29-member countries.



UK Suspends 'Golden Visa' Scheme

- ❖ The British government has suspended the Tier-1 (Investor) visa, as a part of the drive to crackdown on money laundering and organised crimes.
- ❖ This visa scheme will be there until the new safeguarding rules are brought in 2019.
- ❖ The UK tier 1 investor visa, referred to as a "golden visa", was established in 2008.

- ❖ It was the most favoured route that high net worth individuals (HNI) from India, China and Russia used to get permanent residency in the UK.

Golden Visa Criteria

- ❖ To qualify, the foreign nationals must put down a minimum of £2 million (around \$2.5 million) as an investment in Britain.
- ❖ Such an investment in UK bonds, share capital or companies allows investors to apply for permanent residency within 5 years.
- ❖ For a £5 million investment – they can apply for permanent residency after 3 years.
- ❖ For a £10 million investment – they can apply for permanent residency after 2 years.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Nuclear capable Agni-5 missile successfully test fired

- ❖ India successfully test fired the surface-to-surface ballistic missile Agni-5 from Dr Abdul Kalam Island in the Bay of Bengal off Odisha coast.
- ❖ This is the 7th trial of the indigenously-developed surface-to-surface missile, while the second one in the last 6 months.
- ❖ Agni-5 is a 3-stage missile which has a strike range of 5,000 km.



ENVIRONMENT

International Conference on Bears

- ❖ An international conference on bears was organised in Agra for the first time.
- ❖ The conference was hosted by Wildlife SOS, a non-profit Conservation group in association with Bear Care Group from the US and Canada.
- ❖ It was focused on bear care, wildlife conservation and human wildlife conflict mitigation.



STATES

The International Gita Festival 2018

- ❖ The International Gita Festival 2018 was organised at Kurukshetra in Haryana (December 03-07).
- ❖ This year, it is the 3rd edition of this mega cultural event, where Mauritius is the partner country and Gujarat is the partner state.
- ❖ It is being organized to commemorate the origin of 'Srimad Bhagwat Gita'.
- ❖ The Gita festival will also be organised in Mauritius next February.



INTERNATIONAL GITA MAHOTSAV 2018

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

2018 Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi LTA award

- ❖ Renowned flautist Pandit Keshav Ginde was conferred the 2018 prestigious Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Lifetime Achievement (LTA) Award for the Classical Music.
- ❖ The annual LTA award, instituted by the Maharashtra Government, honours maestros in classical music and singing.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Mountain Day – 11 December

- ❖ The International Mountain Day is observed annually on 11 December.
- ❖ Theme for the 2018 edition of the International Mountain Day is “#MountainsMatter”.
- ❖ It is celebrated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to spread the awareness about the contribution of mountains in the biodiversity.

- ❖ Also, to commemorate the day, there will be a side event on “Mountain adaptation: Vulnerable peaks and people” at UNFCCC COP24 in Katowice, Poland.