



January – 11

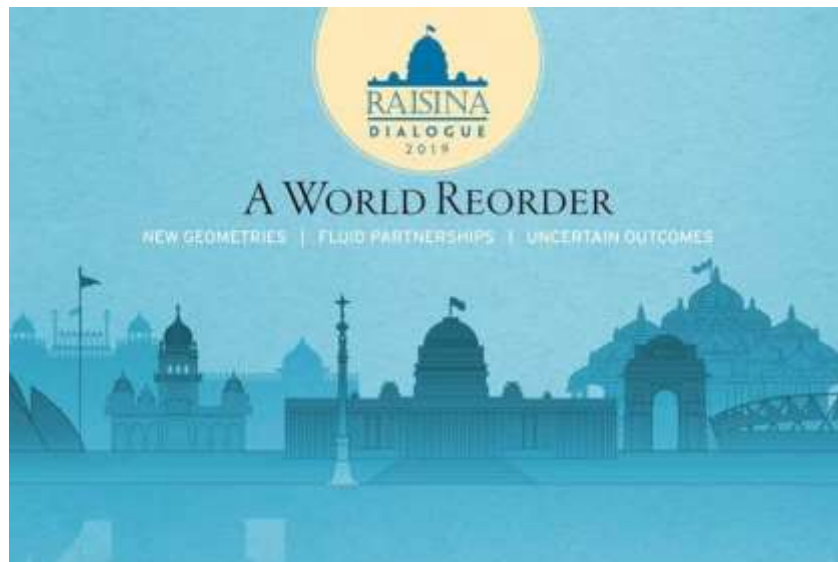
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Nobel Peace Prize winner and Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai pens a new book, titled 'We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World,' charting her experiences traveling the world and visiting refugee camps.
- ❖ The Bihar left-arm spinner Ashutosh Aman etched his name in record books, surpassing the great Bishan Singh Bedi as the highest wicket-taker in a Ranji Trophy season after claiming his 65th scalp.
- ❖ M C Mary Kom attained the first position in the latest ranking released by the International Boxing Association (AIBA) in the Light Fly 45-48 kilograms category.
- ❖ Narasimhan Ram or N.RAM (Hindu Group), Chairman of the THG Publishing Private Limited, has been appointed the President of the Alliance for Media Freedom (AFMF), a cross-media advocacy and action group of media organization, promoters and journalists.
- ❖ The Ex-Hotstar CEO Ajit Mohan officially took over as Facebook India's new Vice President and MD.
- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) pavilion has received 'Exhibitor of the Year Award' at 106th Indian Science Congress held at Punjab.
- ❖ The Market regulator SEBI has set up an advisory committee that will help and analyse the new methods of policy making for the development of capital market. The committee formed will be headed by Sankar De.

NATIONAL

Raisina Dialogue

- ❖ The 4th Edition of Raisina Dialogue was organized by Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Theme of the Dialogue was "A World Reorder: New Geometries; Fluid Partnerships; Uncertain Outcomes".
- ❖ The Raisina Dialogue, whose first edition was held in 2015, is India's flagship annual geopolitical and geostrategic conference.



National Consultation on Child Protection 2019

- ❖ The First 2019 edition of the 'National Consultation on Child Protection' was held at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
- ❖ It was held under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ❖ The meeting aims to follow up on the exercise of monitoring of the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) by States/UTs.

Henley Passport Index

- ❖ According to Henley Passport Index, Japan has retained its position to the top for the consecutive year.
- ❖ South Korea and Singapore are at joint second position.
- ❖ India jumped two positions from 81st in 2018 to 79th this year.
- ❖ European Union member states along with Norway and the US occupy the places behind the top three nations in the rankings.
- ❖ The rankings of the USA and UK have continued to drop.
- ❖ The bottom 5 positions are held by Eritrea, Yemen, Pakistan, Somalia-Syria and Afghanistan-Iraq.



THE 10 MOST POWERFUL PASSPORTS IN THE WORLD					
Rank	Country	Visa free	Rank	Country	Visa free
1	Japan	190	7	Belgium, Canada, Greece, Ireland	184
2	Singapore, South Korea	189	8	Czech Republic	183
3	France, Germany	188	9	Malta	182
4	Denmark, Finland, Italy, Sweden	187	10	Australia, Iceland, New Zealand	181
5	Luxembourg, Spain	186			
6	Austria, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, UK, US	185			

The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019

- ❖ The Lok Sabha passed “The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019” by voice vote after a brief discussion.
- ❖ The Bill regulates the use and application of DNA technology, for establishing identity of missing persons, victims, offenders, under trials and unknown deceased persons.
- ❖ The key components of this Bill include establishment of a DNA Regulatory Board and accreditation of DNA laboratories undertaking DNA testing, analysing.
- ❖ Establishment of the National and Regional DNA Data Banks, as envisaged in the Bill, will assist in forensic investigations.





INTERNATIONAL

International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala

- ❖ The Guatemala President Jimmy Morales has recently announced the termination of the mandate of International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala.
- ❖ The International Commission Against Impunity is known by its Spanish acronym Cicig.
- ❖ But the Guatemala constitutional court had suspended the president's decision to unilaterally terminate the government's pact with the United Nations.
- ❖ The International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) was set up as an international body to examine and investigate the serious crime in Guatemala.



Democracy Index 2019

- ❖ The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released the Democracy Index which ranks 167 countries by 60 indicators across five broad categories.
- ❖ The index classifies each country either as a full democracy, flawed democracy, hybrid regime or authoritarian.
- ❖ India was at the 41st place with a score of 7.23/10 and was placed in the flawed democracies category.



- ❖ Australia and New Zealand are the only “full democracies” in the entire Asia-Pacific region.
- ❖ Some key findings of the democracy index are,
 - Only 4.5% of the world’s people live in a full democracy.
 - The overall global score remained stable in 2018 for the first time in three years.
 - 42 countries experienced a decline in their index score compared with 89 in 2017 and 48 countries have improved their score.
 - Political participation is the most improved category in the index.

ECONOMY

GST exemption limit doubled

- ❖ The GST council has raised the annual turnover for availing composition scheme to Rs 1.5 crore from Rs 1 crore effective from April 1, 2019.
- ❖ The move comes to provide relief to small businesses under Goods and Services (GST) regime.
- ❖ The Council has doubled the GST exemption limit to Rs 20 lakh for north eastern states and Rs 40 lakh for the rest of the country.
- ❖ The council also allowed Kerala to levy 1 per cent calamity cess on intra-state sales for a period of up to 2 years.

GST Exemption Limit Increased
to Rs 40 lakh, Composition limit
increased to 1.5 Cr, Relief to
real Estate etc...Outcome of
32nd GST Council Meeting



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IIT scientists developed Space fuel

- ❖ The IIT-Madras team created 'space fuel' by trapping carbon dioxide in crystalline form with the help of water molecules.
- ❖ This would in future help to curb greenhouse gases.
- ❖ This was made in vacuum, 1 thousand billion times below the atmospheric pressure called ultra-high vacuum (UHV) and temperature close to minus 263 degree Celsius.
- ❖ These conditions are present in deep space which they mimicked in the lab.
- ❖ The Study was published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

STATES

General Consent withdrawn

- ❖ The government of Chhattisgarh has withdrawn the general consent accorded to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe the cases in the state.
- ❖ With this it has joined the list of West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh which have withdrawn the general consent for CBI to undertake investigations.

India's longest single lane steel cable suspension bridge

- ❖ The Arunachal Pradesh CM has inaugurated India's longest 300-meter single-lane steel cable suspension bridge over Siang River in Upper Siang district of state bordering China.
- ❖ The suspension bridge, also known as Byorung Bridge, was funded by the ministry of development of North Eastern Region under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources scheme.
- ❖ It will reduce the distance from Yingkiong to Tuting town by almost 40 km. The earlier road length was 192 km.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Bharatiya Pravasi Day/Non-Resident Indian Day – 09 January

- ❖ The Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day or Bharatiya Pravasi Day is celebrated on 09th January every two year.
- ❖ It marks the contribution of overseas Indian community in the development of India.
- ❖ Mahatma Gandhi came to India from South Africa on 9th January 1915, and became the greatest Pravasi who led India's freedom Struggle.
- ❖ Earlier till 2015, it was celebrated every year and now in every two year.





World Hindi Day – 10 January

- ❖ The World Hindi day is celebrated every year on 10 January.
- ❖ It marks the anniversary of first World Hindi Conference which was held in 1975 and inaugurated by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- ❖ The main focus of World Hindi Day is “to promote the language at the global stage”.
- ❖ The National Hindi Diwas is celebrated every year on 14th September, marks the adaption of Hindi, written in Devanagari script as the official language.
- ❖ The World Hindi Conference was first observed on 10th January, 2006.
