



**January-14**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the fifth Indian batsman, 2nd full-time wicket-keeper and 12th overall batsman to score 10,000 runs in the 50-over format in the first one-day international in Sydney.
  - Dhoni joined with Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid and Virat Kohli on the elite list.

## **NATIONAL**

### **UNNATI - Unispace Nanosatellite Assembly & Training programme**

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) has launched UNNATI - capacity-building programme on nanosatellite development.
- ❖ It is launched to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space (UNISPACE 50).
- ❖ The UNNATI programme will be conducted for three years by the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre of ISRO in Bengaluru.
- ❖ Responsibility: Department of Space

### **Prayagraj Kumbh**

- ❖ Ram Nath Kovind offered prayers along with his wife at the Sangam of Prayagraj, becoming the first president after Rajendra Prasad to visit a Kumbh Mela.
- ❖ The President also inaugurated the three-day 'Gandhian Resurgence Summit' at the Parmarth Niketan camp.
- ❖ Prayagraj Kumbh 2019 will be remembered for opening of doors to Akshaya Vat (sacred tree) and Saraswati Koop (sacred well) for common men after 450 years. It was a long pending demand of the devotees.

### **Guru Gobind Singh Coin**

- ❖ The Prime Minister released a commemorative coin on Guru Gobind Singh, on January 13, 2019.



- ❖ The event marks the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh.
- ❖ The Tenth Guru of Sikhs- Guru Gobind Singh has been a source of inspiration for many through his teachings and ideals.

**List of commemorative coins issued by PM Modi**

- ❖ Rs 100 and Rs 5 coins were issued to honour iconic Indian actor and politician Late MG Ramachandran.
- ❖ Rs 100 and Rs 10 coins were issued in the honour of Carnatic singer MS Subbalakshmi.

**Womaniya on GeM**

- ❖ The Government e Marketplace [GeM] has launched “Womaniya on GeM”, an initiative to enable women entrepreneurs and women self-help groups [WSHG] to sell handicrafts and handloom, accessories, jute and coir products, home décor and office furnishings, directly to various Government ministries.



- ❖ The GeM is an online platform of the ministry for procurement of goods and services by government departments, public sector units, and other agencies.

## **NH-66**

- ❖ The Prime Minister dedicated the 13 km 2-lane Kollam bypass on NH-66 to the nation.
- ❖ The bypass has three major bridges over the Ashtamudi Lake, with a total length of 1,540 metres.
- ❖ Kollam Bypass will reduce travel time between Alappuzha and Thiruvananthapuram and decongest the traffic in Kollam town.





## **DD Science**

- ❖ The Department of Science and Technology (DST) along with Doordarshan (DD), Prasar Bharati today launched two science communication initiatives
  - DD Science
  - India Science
- ❖ DD Science is a joint initiative of Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous organisation under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and public broadcaster, Doordarshan. It is a one-hour slot on Doordarshan National channel.
- ❖ India Science is an online channel available on all internet-enabled devices.

## **Voter Awareness Forums**

- ❖ Voter Awareness Forum (VAF) was launched by Election Commission of India (ECI) in New Delhi.
- ❖ Voter Awareness Forums are informal Forums for generating awareness around electoral process through activities like discussions, quizzes, competitions and other engaging activities.

### **Electoral Literacy Club**

- ❖ VAF is part of the Electoral Literacy Club programme of ECI.
- ❖ Launched on the 8th National Voters Day, 25th January 2018, the ELC programme envisages setting up of Electoral Literacy Club in every educational institution and Chunar Pathshala at every booth to cover those outside the formal education system.

## **SĀNJHI –MUJH MEIN KALĀKĀR**

- ❖ Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama has launched the second phase of the Web Campaign 'SĀNJHI –MUJH MEIN KALĀKĀR'.
- ❖ It is an initiative to document and promote the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and diverse cultural traditions of the country by direct public-participation.

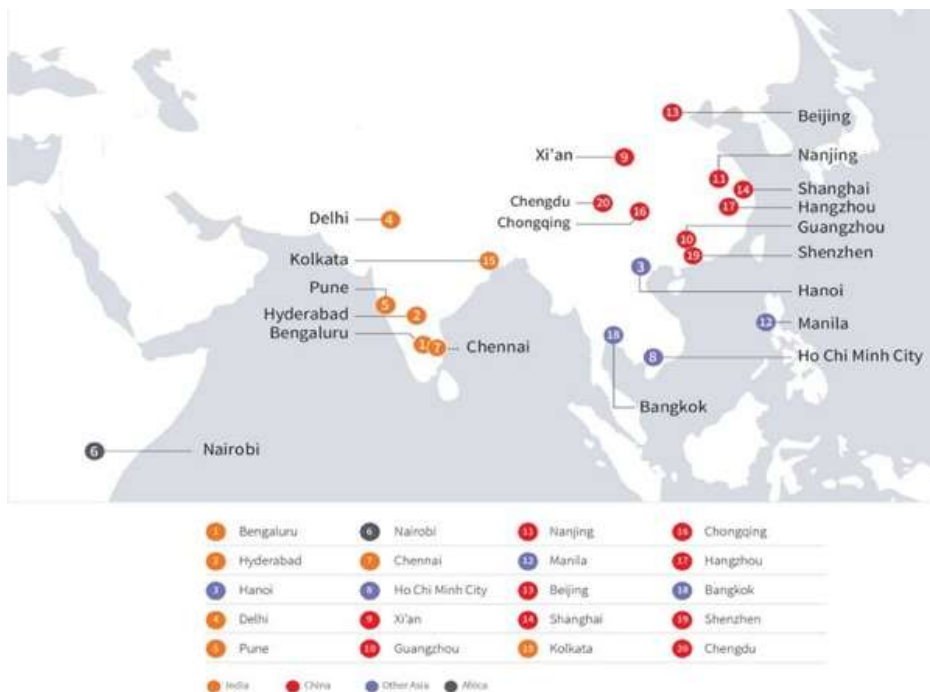
### **Sangeet Natak Akademi**

- ❖ The Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) is the nodal agency of the Ministry of Culture, under the Government of India to coordinate the matters related to Intangible

Cultural Heritage and various UNESCO Conventions addressing Cultural Diversity and promotion and dissemination of multifarious cultural traditions and expressions of the country.

## Dynamic City

- ❖ According to the sixth City Momentum Index published by JLL, Bengaluru is the world's most dynamic city among 131 major established and emerging business hubs globally.



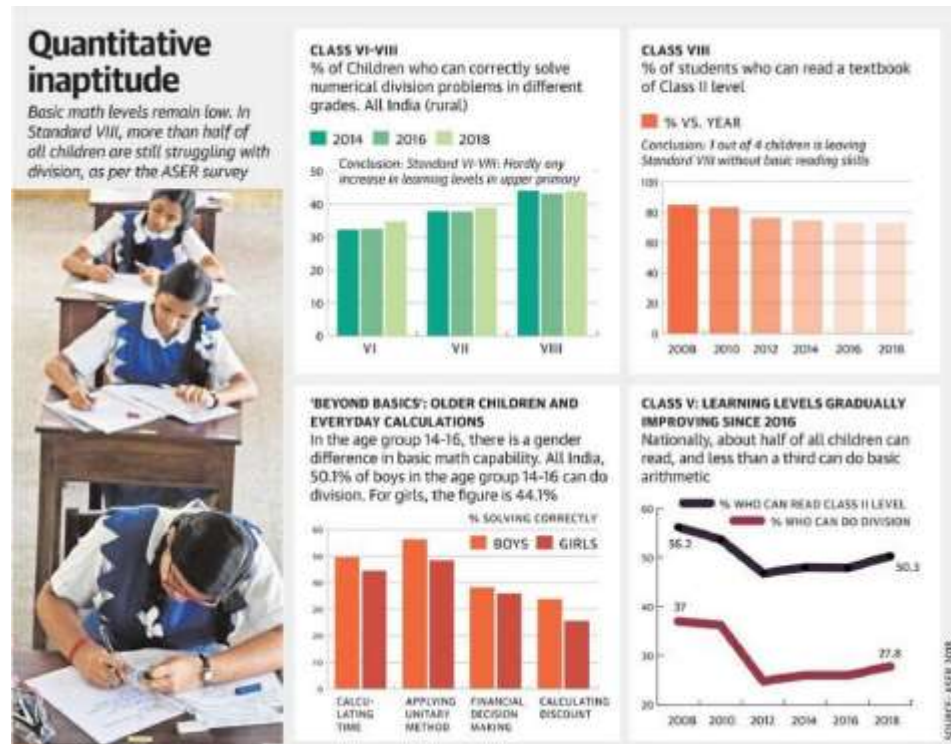
- ❖ It is followed by Hyderabad

## ASER

- ❖ The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2018 is a yearly survey by NGO Pratham carried out since 2006.
- ❖ The report shows that more than half of Class VIII students cannot correctly solve a numerical division problem and more than a quarter of them cannot read a primary-level text.



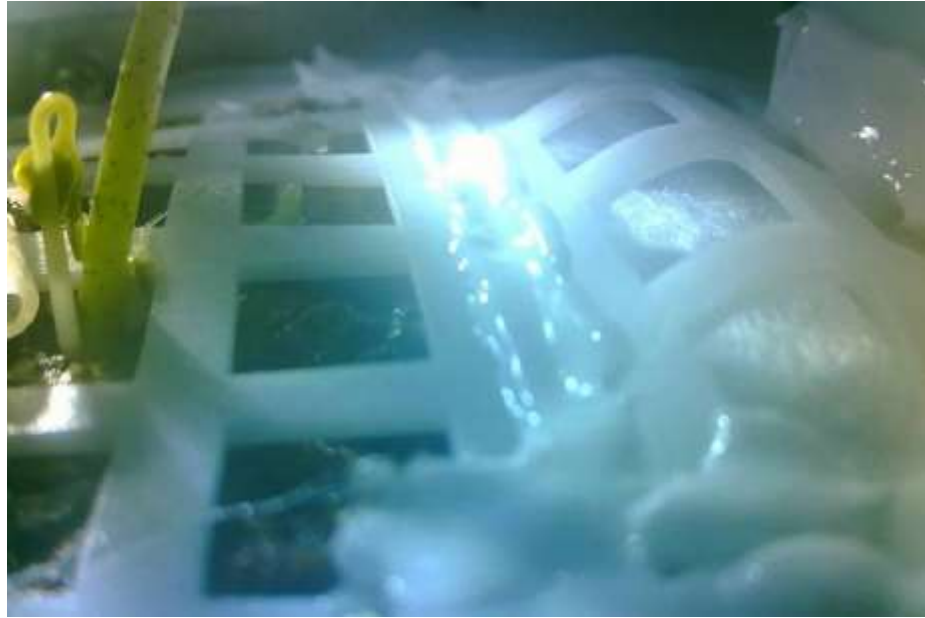
- ❖ There has been some improvement in the reading and arithmetic skills of lower primary students in rural India over the last decade, the skills of Class VIII students have actually seen a decline.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Chang'e-4 probe – Cotton sprout

- ❖ A cotton seed carried to the Moon by China's recent Chang'e-4 probe has sprouted, the first for any biological matter to grow on the Moon.
- ❖ On January 3, China's robotic spacecraft Chang'e-4 landed on the far side of the moon, a first in the human history of space exploration.
- ❖ The 1.3-tonne lander, which made a soft landing on the Moon, carried the seeds of cotton, oilseed rape, potato and arabidopsis, as well as eggs of the fruit fly and some yeast, to form a simple mini biosphere.
- ❖ The lunar mini biosphere experiment on the lander is designed to test photosynthesis and respiration.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Vision 2040 – Civil Aviation**

- ❖ The Ministry of Civil Aviation unveiled the Vision 2040 document.
- ❖ India's air passenger traffic is expected to grow six-fold to 1.1 billion and the number of operational airports is expected to increase around 200 in 2040.
- ❖ As per the document, the government may consider establishing a Nabh Nirman Fund (NNF) with a starting corpus of around USD 2 billion to support low traffic airports in their initial phases.

-----