



January – 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Vice-President of India has recently inaugurated the 2-days Agri-Vision 2019 conference on ‘envisioning Agro-solutions for smart and Sustainable Agriculture’ in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ❖ The Odisha state government has announced extension of free health services under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) to all government medical colleges and hospitals in the state.
 - Earlier, the free treatment facility for all were available at sub-centres in villages and district headquarters hospitals.
- ❖ The Defence Minister of India has recently inaugurated the 426 m long Diffo Bridge over Chipu River in Lower Dibang Valley District of Arunachal Pradesh. The Border Roads Organization (BRO) has constructed the bridge along Indo-China border.
 - It was funded by the Union ministry of road transport and highways.

TAMIL NADU

TN launches portal for pensioners

- ❖ The Deputy CM of Tamil Nadu has recently launched a new portal for pensioners’ - (<https://tnpensioner.tn.gov.in>).
- ❖ The portal was jointly developed by the Department of Treasuries and Accounts and National Informatics Centre.
- ❖ From the portal,
 - Details of monthly pension credited into the bank accounts,
 - Restoration of commuted value of pension,
 - Enhanced family pension, etc.,can be accessed without approaching the Treasury/Pension Pay Office.

Golden jubilee of Tamil Nadu to be celebrated

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has announced that Golden jubilee of renaming the erstwhile state of Madras, as Tamil Nadu will be commemorated this year (2019).
- ❖ The Madras state was renamed as Tamil Nadu by the then DMK government led by C. N. Annadurai on January 14, 1969, on the occasion of Pongal.
- ❖ It was the Congressman Thyagi Sankaralinganar in July 27, 1956 who first struggled for the renaming of Madras State to “Thamizhagam”.

NATIONAL

India's First National Museum of Indian Cinema

- ❖ The Prime Minister of India has recently launched the Country's First National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The Museum seeks to portray over a century-old journey of movies in India.
- ❖ The NMIC was built under the guidance by the Museum Advisory Committee headed by noted film maker Shyam Benegal.
- ❖ An innovation Committee headed by the lyricist Prasoon Joshi was also constituted to provide an upgrade to NMIC.

HAL-built LCH completes air-to-air weapon trials

- ❖ The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) designed and developed light combat helicopter (LCH) has successfully carried out air-to-air missile firing on a moving aerial target.



- ❖ This is the first time in the country that a helicopter has carried out air-to-air missile engagement.
- ❖ It is equipped with Helmet mounted sight and a forward-looking infrared sighting system, LCH pilots can now detect and destroy any target on the ground or in the air.

Exclusive satellite for Border Management

- ❖ A satellite will be launched by the ISRO exclusively for the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to help it further strengthen its frontiers with Pakistan and Bangladesh among others.
- ❖ The move is part of recommendations made by a task force on the use of space technology in improving border management.
- ❖ The MHA has approved the report of Task Force created by it to identify areas for use of Space Technology in improving Border Management.
- ❖ The task force was headed by the Joint Secretary of Border Management (BM) and included members from BSF, Department of Space and BM Division of MHA.

District Mining Fund (DMF) programme

- ❖ The Central government has asked the states to step-up the spending under the District Mining Fund (DMF) programme.

Funds utilised for projects in high priority sectors	
Sector	(₹ cr)
Drinking water supply	1,039.37
Environment preservation & pollution control measures	113.63
Health	467.09
Education	1,020.87
Welfare of women and children	135.54
Welfare of aged and disabled people	36.26
Skill development	136.39
Sanitation	460.67

- ❖ The move comes as just 24 % of the Rs 23,606-crore mopped up under the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) was actually spent.



- ❖ The PMKKKY is aimed at providing welfare to those affected by mining operations.
- ❖ Under the programme, a portion of revenues (10-30 % of the royalty proceeds from the minerals) is earmarked for development activities in mining regions.

INTERNATIONAL

Swedish PM elected for second term

- ❖ The Swedish Parliament ended a four-month-long political uncertainty, electing the Prime Minister Stefan Lofven for a 2nd four-year term.
- ❖ This political uncertainty was due to the September 2018 general elections in which no political party won a majority.



- ❖ Now, Lofven has formed a minority government with support from the Green Party, Center Party and the Liberals.
- ❖ About 115 lawmakers in the 349-member Swedish Parliament voted in favour of Lofven, while 153 MPs voted 'no' and 77 abstained in the no-confidence vote.
- ❖ Under Sweden's political system, a nominee becomes a prime minister as long as a majority of the Parliament (175 members) does not vote against that individual.

ECONOMY

UK Sinha-headed working group to study Group insolvency

- ❖ The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has set up a 11-member working group under the Chairmanship of former SEBI chief UK Sinha.



- ❖ The working group (7 members + 4 invitees) will study the concept of 'Group Insolvency' and suggest a suitable framework.
- ❖ At present, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) provides for the resolution or liquidation of only individual stressed companies.
- ❖ So, a framework within the IBC is sought to be created for the resolution/liquidation of an entire stressed corporate group having several entities in multiple NCLT jurisdictions.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BES EXPO 2019

- ❖ The 25th International conference and exhibition on terrestrial and satellite broadcasting, BES EXPO 2019 was held recently at New Delhi.
- ❖ The theme of the exhibition is "Next Gen Broadcasting in the IT World".
- ❖ The BES EXPO 2019 was organized by the Broadcast Engineering Society India (BES).



STATES

B.Tech. in Artificial Intelligence – First in India

- ❖ The Hyderabad IIT is launching a full-fledged Bachelor of Technology (B. Tech.) Program in Artificial Intelligence (AI) from the coming academic year (2019-2020).
- ❖ With this, it will become the first Indian educational institution to offer such a program.



- ❖ It is also likely the 3rd institute globally after Carnegie Mellon University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), both of which are in the US.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Rosa Park Trailblazer award

- ❖ An Indian-American philanthropist and entrepreneur, Gurinder Singh Khalsa (45), has been presented with the prestigious Rosa Park Trailblazer award.



- ❖ He has been awarded for his campaign that forced US authorities change their policy towards headgear of the Sikh community.
- ❖ In 2007, Khalsa was refused access to board an airplane because of his turban.
