



January – 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Pakistan government has declared sugarcane juice as the “national drink” of the country. They came at this decision after asking People’s opinion in twitter to choose one among orange, carrot and sugarcane.
- ❖ The Assam government entitled the Republic Day Journalism Award 2019 to veteran journalist and former editor Dhirendra Nath Chakraborty.
- ❖ The Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has recently inaugurated four-lane, 5.1-kilometer long “Atal Setu”, the third Cable bridge across the river Mandovi in Panaji, Goa.
- ❖ India has successfully launched Microsat-R, a military satellite and Kalamsat onboard its Polar rocket PSLV C44, in the first mission for the ISRO in 2019.
- ❖ The Indian milk cooperative Amul for the first time has launched camel milk, branded as ‘Amul Camel Milk’ in select Gujarat markets — Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad and the Kutch.

TAMIL NADU

Apollo Proton Cancer Centre

- ❖ India has launched Apollo Proton Cancer Centre (APCC) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ With this launch, India has become the 16th country in the World to offer proton therapy for cancer.
- ❖ The Centre offers proton therapy with pencil-beam technology that provides a high degree of precision.
- ❖ Through proton beam therapy, which is a form of radiation, zero dose beyond the tumour is achievable.

NATIONAL

Powers of the Autonomous Councils

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved a constitutional amendment to increase the financial and executive powers of the 10 autonomous councils in the 6th Schedule areas of the northeast.



- ❖ The Finance Commission would be mandated to recommend the devolution of financial resources to the councils.
- ❖ Till now, the autonomous councils have depended on grants from Central Ministries and the State governments for specific projects.
- ❖ Atleast 1/3rd of the seats would be reserved for women in the village and municipal councils in the 6th Schedule areas of Assam, Mizoram and Tripura.
- ❖ The amendment also provides for transfer of additional 30 subjects, to
 - Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council and
 - Dima Hasao Autonomous Territorial Council in Assam.
- ❖ The proposed amendments provide for elected village municipal councils, ensuring democracy at the grass-roots level.
- ❖ The State Election Commissions would hold elections to the autonomous councils, village and municipal councils in the areas of Assam, Mizoram and Tripura.

Abandoned airstrips across country to be renovated

- ❖ The Centre has decided to renovate and develop around 400 abandoned airstrips across the country to strengthen air-connectivity.
- ❖ Jharkhand is the first state in the country where an MOU was signed to develop one such abandoned air strip at Dhalbhumgarh.

INTERNATIONAL

Sultan Abdullah elected as New Malaysian King

- ❖ Malaysia has named Sultan Abdullah Ibni Sultan Ahmad Shah as the country's 16th King.
- ❖ He will officially take over as King or Yang di-Pertuan Agong on January 31, replacing his predecessor Sultan Muhammad V of Kelantan state who resigned on January 6.
- ❖ The 59-year-old Abdullah became Sultan of the Malaysian state of Pahang, succeeding his father Sultan Ahmad Shah.



ENVIRONMENT

India accounts more than half leprosy cases globally - WHO

- ❖ The WHO stated that over 2 lakh new leprosy cases are detected around the world every year with India accounting for more than half of these cases.
- ❖ India accounts for 60% of new cases detected in 2017 — 1.26 lakh out of 2.10 lakh.
- ❖ New cases have declined gradually since 2008. However, they hit a sudden spike in 2012 and 2016. This was the trend for both India and globally.
- ❖ It also stated that disease is 100% curable if detected early.
- ❖ Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease which mainly affects the skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosal surfaces of the upper respiratory tract and the eyes.

TOP 5 INDIAN STATES, BY NUMBER OF CASES		PREVALENCE (EXCLUDING UTs) PER LAKH POPULATION	
Bihar	14,338	Chhattisgarh	2.25
Uttar Pradesh	12,583	Odisha	1.38
Maharashtra	9,836	Bihar	1.18
West Bengal	9,175	Jharkhand	1.05
Chhattisgarh	6,499	West Bengal	0.92

Source: National Leprosy Eradication Programme; figures as of March 2018

STATES

Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2014

- ❖ The Governor of Jammu and Kashmir has given his assent to the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2014.
- ❖ The amendment bill provides for reservation in government jobs for Pahari community.
- ❖ The amendment creates a separate category for the persons belonging to Pahari community among the Socially & Educationally Backward classes (other than SC's & ST's).
- ❖ The Pahari Community also called as Pahadi and Parbati belongs to Indo-Aryan ethnic group inhabiting Himalayan regions of Nepal and India.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2018

- ❖ 'No Presents Please', an English Novel translated from Kannada Work of Jayant Kaikini, has won the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2018.
- ❖ The award was announced during the Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Meet.
- ❖ The novel was translated to English by Tejaswini Niranjana.
- ❖ For the first time the award was being given to a translated work.
- ❖ The DSC Prize for South Asian Literature was instituted by Surina Narula and Manhad Narula in 2010.
- ❖ It awards the best work in South Asian fiction writing each year.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Republic Day - 26 January

- ❖ India Celebrated its 70th Republic Day on 26th January 2019.
- ❖ This Day honours the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect on 26th January 1950 replacing the Government of India Act (1935) as the governing document of India.
- ❖ South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa, was the Chief Guest of the 70th Republic Day.
- ❖ This is the 2nd time, South African President is Chief Guest for Republic Day.
- ❖ The first such occasion was held in 1995 when the late Nelson Mandela visited India as the Chief Guest for the Republic day.

First in Republic Day

- ❖ 4 Indian National Army (INA) veterans
 - Parmanand,
 - Lalti Ram,
 - Hira Singh and
 - Bhagmal,



all Aged above 90 took part in the Republic Day parade for the First time, under the theme 'Veterans: Accelerators in Nation's Growth'.

- ❖ First time in history, 'Nari Shakti' (women power) was displayed as the Assam Rifles tableau had all women contingent, led by Major Khushboo Kanwar.
- ❖ Lieutenant Bhavana Kasturi has become the first woman officer to lead an all-men Army contingent in the Republic Day parade.
- ❖ Captain Shikha Surabhi from the Corps of Signals became the first woman to perform bike stunts, alongside her male teammates as a part of daredevils.
- ❖ For the first Time, IAF flies plane using blend of Jet Fuel and Biofuel During Republic Day Parade.


