



February– 05

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Interim Budget 2019 has increased the allocations to the Defence Ministry by 6.87 per cent to Rs 3.18 lakh crore against last year's allocation of Rs 2.98 lakh crore.
- ❖ The Cooperatives Department of Maharashtra has decided to appoint managers at six major cities across the country to enhance agribusiness between cooperatives in Maharashtra and other States.
- ❖ Manipur filmmaker Aribam Syam Sharma returned his 2006 Padma Shri award in solidarity with the ongoing public protests against Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2016.
 - The former Indian president Dr APJ Abdul Kalam had conferred the Padmashree award to the noted filmmaker for his contribution to Manipuri cinema and world of the films.
- ❖ In order to improve the education system, the Sikkim state Human Resource Department signed a MoU with Microsoft.
- ❖ Facebook-owned messaging app WhatsApp has announced Startup India-WhatsApp Grand Challenge to encourage entrepreneurs and small businesses in India.
- ❖ Indian's woman cricketer Smriti Mandhana has topped the ICC rankings for Women's batters after scoring her fourth ODI century and an unbeaten 90 in the three-match series in New Zealand.
 - Mandhana moved up 3 places to reach the top spot. She is followed by Australians Ellyse Perry and Meg Lanning.

TAMIL NADU

Road Safety Fund

- ❖ TN Chief Minister has allocated a total fund of Rs 65 crore to implement various strategies to spread awareness on road safety.
- ❖ The funding was announced ahead of the annual road safety week in the State which is observed from February 4-10.
- ❖ The police commissioners of the 3 districts that has the least number of accidents this year, will be conferred with the Chief Minister's award.

NATIONAL

Braille Voter Slips for Blind Voters

- ❖ Visually impaired and blind voters will be provided with braille voter slips in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.
- ❖ Braille is a script with raised dots that can be read with the fingers by people who are blind or who have low vision.
- ❖ The braille enabled slips were used in the recently held Rajasthan assembly elections also.
- ❖ Electronic voting machines already have the braille feature. The ballot paper pasted on the machine with name and symbol of candidates is braille enabled.
- ❖ Election Commission also plans to provide braille election photo identity cards to visually challenged voters across the country.

New CBI Director

- ❖ IPS officer Rishi Kumar Shukla has been appointed as the chief of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a fixed tenure of two years.
- ❖ His tenure starts from February 2nd. And he assumed his post on February 4th.
- ❖ Rishi Kumar Shukla is currently serving as the chairman of Madhya Pradesh Police Housing Corporation in Bhopal.
- ❖ The Appointment of the Rishi Kumar was approved by the Appointments Committee of the cabinet based on the recommendation of the selection committee headed by the Prime Minister.
- ❖ The CBI Director Selection Committee includes Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India and Leader of Opposition in Loksabha.
- ❖ The CBI Director search committee is comprising the Central Vigilance Commissioner as chairperson, other vigilance commissioners Home Secretary and Secretary (Co-ordination and Public Grievances in the Cabinet Secretariat) as members.



SHUKLA

- 1983-batch IPS officer
- Played a key role in the extradition of Abu Salem and Monica Bedi in 2005
- Considered close to National Security Adviser Ajit Doval
- Was appointed DGP of Madhya Pradesh on July 1, 2016
- Put 10 IPS



officers under investigation and dismissed 169 cops

- Was transferred as DG, police housing on Jan 30

KHARGE'S OBJECTION TO APPOINTMENT:

- Govt ignored Shukla's lack of experience in anti-corruption investigation

INTERNATIONAL

Extension of Sanctions against Central African Republic

- ❖ The United Nations Security Council decided to extend its sanctions on the Central African Republic (CAR) including an arms prohibition, travel ban and assets freeze until 31 January 2020.
- ❖ It is also extending the mandate of the Panel of Experts assisting the Central African Republic Sanctions Committee until 29 February 2020.

Sanctions against the CAR

- ❖ The CAR has been haunted by violence between Muslims and Christians since predominantly Muslim Seleka rebels overthrew the Christian president in March 2013 and seized the power.
- ❖ Anti-Balaka militias, mostly Christians, fought back resulting in thousands of deaths and displacement.
- ❖ As a result, many fled to the country's north and across the border into Chad and Cameroon.



ECONOMY

INSTEX - Iran Trade Promotion Plan

- ❖ Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) is a project of the three governments of UK, France and Germany to bypass US sanctions on Iran.
- ❖ INSTEX is a special payment system which will help to save the Iran nuclear deal by allowing Tehran to keep trading with EU companies despite Washington re-imposing sanctions.
- ❖ INSTEX would receive payments from companies that want to trade with Iran, either by receiving waivers for oil imports or permissible trade in goods like food and medicine.
- ❖ As a result, there would be no direct transfer of funds between Iran and European companies.
- ❖ This would theoretically insulate firms from U.S. penalties.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Acquisition of Milan-2T Anti-Tank Missiles

- ❖ The Defence Acquisition Council headed by the Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has approved the acquisition of the Milan-2T anti-tank missiles.
- ❖ Milan is a portable medium-range, anti-tank missile produced by Euromissile, based in Fontenay-aux-Roses in France.
- ❖ The Milan munitions consist of the missile in a waterproof launch tube.
- ❖ This newer variety was developed specifically to counter the adoption of 'reactive armour' by militaries in the 1990s.
- ❖ The upgraded 2T can penetrate reactive armour.



STATES

Punjab's State aquatic animal

- ❖ The Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh declared one of the rarest mammals, Indus River Dolphin, which is only found in Beas River, as Punjab State Aquatic Animal.
- ❖ He approved to declare Kanjli Wetland and holy Kali Bein River as a wildlife conservation reserve to mark the historic celebration of 550th Parkash Purb of Sri Guru Nanak Dev.
- ❖ The CM also approved for the implementation of Karnataka model of jungle lodges in coordination with private organisations.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Cancer Day – February 04

- ❖ The World Cancer Day (WCD) is observed every year on 4th February across the World to raise awareness of cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment.
- ❖ This year marks the launch of the 3-year (2019-2021) 'I Am and I Will' campaign.
- ❖ The WCD was instituted by Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) in 2008 by formally writing goals of the World Cancer Declaration.
- ❖ The primary goal of observing the day is to reduce illness and death caused by it by 2020.
- ❖ The origin of day can be traced to 2000 at first World Summit Against Cancer, which was held in Paris, France.



MISCELLANEOUS

International Spice Conference 2019

- ❖ The fourth edition of International Spice Conference was held in the City of Pearls and the capital city of Telangana-Hyderabad.
- ❖ The conference is hosted by the All India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF) which represents around 80% of spices export from India.
- ❖ It is considered as platform for all business houses, the spice associations, the policy makers, the farmers and the users, to connect and interact.
- ❖ The theme for the conference 2019 is 'Challenges of Change, Redefining the Value Chain'.
- ❖ Third edition of this conference was held in Jaipur with the theme 'Managing Disruptions through Transformation and Collaboration'.
