



January – 04

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Delhi Police has become the first police force in the country to digitize all malkhanas. Malkhana is a storage facility in police stations where case properties & evidences are kept for safe custody.
- ❖ The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) launched a toll-free number 14433 and a facility to file complaints through Common Service Centre (CSC). The toll-free number would be available only during the office hours of the NHRC.
- ❖ The Indian Cricket team captain Virat Kohli equalled Former Indian Captain Sourav Ganguly's record with 11th away test win as a captain. He also became the first Indian captain to retain the Border-Gavaskar trophy on Australian soil.
- ❖ The State-owned Allahabad Bank and SBI Life Insurance to sell the policies of the insurer from over 3,238 branches of the Allahabad Bank. The agreement is considered as one of the largest Bancassurance partnerships in the country.
- ❖ 1990 Dronacharya awardee cricket coach Ramakant Achrekar, who coached Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar passed away at 86.
 - Because of his contributions to the sport, he was honoured with Padma Shri in 2010.
- ❖ Virat Kohli beats Cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar's to become the fastest batsman to score 19000 international runs.
- ❖ Tropical Storm Usman hit Philippines' Bicol region in Manila, which brought heavy rains and triggered deadly landslides all over the country.
- ❖ Pentagon comptroller David Norquist was named acting deputy defence secretary of the USA.

NATIONAL

Transgenders can file sexual harassment case under IPC

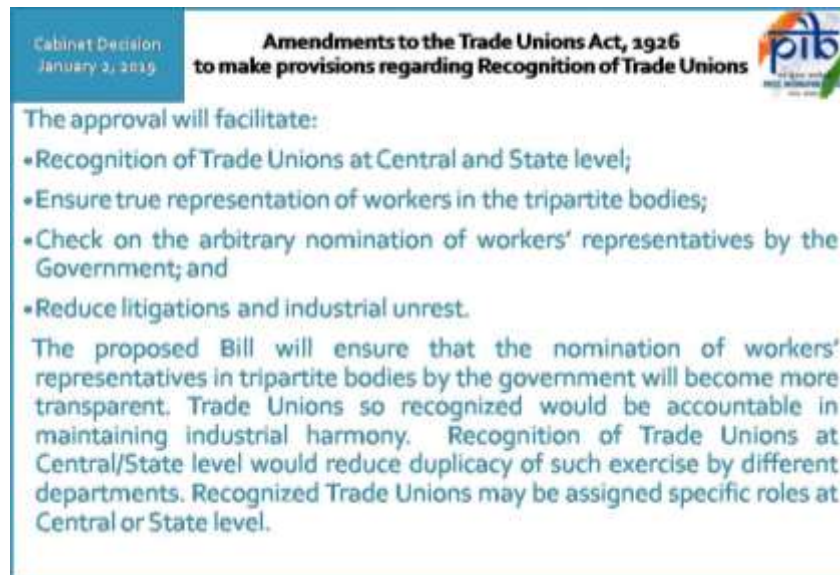
- ❖ Recently, the Delhi High Court has ruled that Section 354A of IPC can be used by transgender persons to register complaints of sexual harassment.
- ❖ The Section 354A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) deals with sexual harassment and punishment for sexual harassment.



- ❖ The development came after a transgender student's complaint of sexual harassment was not entertained by the police as there was lack of an appropriate penal section to register such complaint.

Amendment to the Trade Unions Act -1926

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has recently approved amendment to the Trade Unions Act of 1926 to make provisions regarding Recognition of Trade Unions.
- ❖ The approval will facilitate
 - Recognition of Trade Unions at Central and State level;
 - Ensure true representation of workers in the tripartite bodies;



- ❖ The present Act provides for only registration of trade unions. Currently, there is no provision for recognition of unions in the Act.

Amendment in the POCSO Act

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has recently approved amendments to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act of 2012.
- ❖ These amendments aim to make punishment more stringent for committing sexual crimes against children.

- ❖ The amendments provide for the options of stringent punishment, including the death penalty, for committing aggravated penetrative sexual assault crime on a child.

#POCSO
Salient Features:

- ◆ The POCSO Act, 2012 was enacted to Protect the Children from Offences of Sexual Assault, Sexual harassment and pornography with due regard for safeguarding the interest and well-being of children. The Act defines a child as any person below eighteen years of age, and regards the best interests and welfare of the child as matter of paramount importance at every stage, to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child. The act is gender neutral.
- ◆ The amendment in Section-4, Section-5, Section-6, Section-9, Section-14, Section-15 and Section-42 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, is made to address the aspects of child sexual abuse in appropriate manner. The modification is made to address the need for stringent measures required to deter the rising trend of child sex abuse in the country.
- ◆ To discourage the trend of child sexual abuse by acting as a deterrent Section-4, Section-5 and Section-6 are proposed to be amended to provide option of stringent punishment, including death penalty, for committing aggravated penetrative sexual assault crime on a child to protect the children from sexual abuse.
- ◆ The amendments are also proposed in section-9 to protect children from sexual offences in times of natural calamities and disasters and in cases where children are administered, in any way, any hormone or any chemical substance, to attain early sexual maturity for the purpose of penetrative sexual assault.
- ◆ Section-14 and Section-15 of the POCSO Act, 2012 are also proposed to be amended to address the menace of the child pornography. It is proposed to levy fine for not destroying/or deleting/ or reporting the pornographic material involving a child. The person can be further penalized with jail term or fine or both for transmitting/propagating/administering such material in any manner except for the purpose of reporting as may be prescribed and for use as evidence in court. Penal provisions have been made more stringent for storing/possessing any pornographic material in any form involving a child for commercial purpose.

- ❖ The amendments (section-9) provide for the protection of children from sexual offences in times of natural calamities and disasters.

INTERNATIONAL

Germany - Denmark rail and road tunnel link

- ❖ The German authorities gave their approval to an US \$8 billion rail and road tunnel linking Denmark and Germany, despite the environmental objections.
- ❖ It is partly funded by the European Union.
- ❖ The 19 km Fehmarn belt link, connecting the Danish island of Lolland to the German island of Fehmarn, was due to be completed in 2024.



- ❖ Once completed, it will become the world's longest road and rail tunnel.

Non-Permanent Members of UNSC

- ❖ Five nations, namely,
 - Belgium,
 - Dominican Republic,
 - Germany,
 - Indonesia and
 - South Africa

have assumed the charge as the Non-Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Permanent Members	China
	France
	Russian Federation
	the United Kingdom
	The United States
Non-permanent Members 2018 - 2019	Côte d'Ivoire
	Equatorial Guinea
	Kuwait
	Peru
	Poland
Non-permanent Members 2019 - 2020	Belgium
	Dominican Republic
	Germany
	Indonesia
	South Africa



- ❖ These five countries will hold a two-year term in the Council with effect from January 1, 2019.
- ❖ The Dominican Republic has been elected in the Security Council for the very first time.
- ❖ They retained the seats vacated by Bolivia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands and Sweden on December 31, 2018, after serving their 2-year term.

ECONOMY

RBI panel on MSME revival

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed an 8-member expert committee headed by the former SEBI chairman U.K. Sinha.
- ❖ The committee will comprehensively review and propose long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.
- ❖ The MSME sector has been facing stress due to the demonetisation exercise and implementation of GST.

GST on inter-state office services

- ❖ The Karnataka AAAR (Appellate Authority for Advance Rulings) has upheld the levy of GST on services rendered by one office branch to other branches of the same company located in different states.
- ❖ In-house service functions such as human resources and payrolls, if carried out from a centre in one state for offices in other states, then it will attract GST for which it will have to issue an invoice.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Paper Sensor to detect freshness of Milk

- ❖ The Scientists at IIT - Guwahati, have developed a simple paper kit that can test freshness of milk and tell how well it has been pasteurized.
- ❖ Aided with a smart phone app, the kit can help to ensure that the milk is consumed before it turns too sour.



- ❖ Using the kit, it takes just 15 minutes to detect 'raw' milk from pasteurized milk.
- ❖ A milk enzyme, Alkaline Phosphatase (ALP), is considered to be an indicator of milk quality.
- ❖ The scientists have used an ordinary filter paper to prepare the detector, which was impregnated with chemical probes that preferentially react with ALP resulting in colour change.

'Brain Pacemaker' - WAND

- ❖ The Scientists have developed a device named WAND, which stands for "Wireless Artefact-free Neuromodulation Device", to treat disorders like epilepsy and Parkinson's disease.



- ❖ It works like a "Pacemaker for the brain" to monitor the brain's electrical activity and stimulate the brain with electric current.
- ❖ The device is both wireless and autonomous and can simultaneously stimulate and record the electrical signals in the brain.

Juno probe captured volcanic plumes on Io

- ❖ Juno spacecraft, has beamed back new images of volcanic plumes on Jupiter's moon Io, captured during the mission's 17th flyby of the gas giant.
- ❖ Juno spacecraft is NASA's solar-powered probe on Jupiter.
- ❖ Io is the most volcanic body in our solar system.
- ❖ Io's volcanoes were discovered by NASA's Voyager spacecraft in 1979.



- ❖ Images could lead to new insights into Jupiter's interactions with its five moons.

ENVIRONMENT

Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)

- ❖ Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) reported that Sweden has been named the first best performing country in the CCPI 2019 list.
- ❖ CCPI evaluates the climate protection performance of 60 countries, responsible for over 90% of global energy-related CO₂ emissions.



- ❖ Morocco has been named second in the CCPI 2019 followed by Lithuania is in the 3rd position.
- ❖ The bottom 5 in the list are Saudi Arabia, U.S., Iran, South Korea, and Taiwan.
- ❖ With the connection of the world's largest solar plant to the grid, Morocco is on track for achieving its target of 42% installed renewable energy capacities by 2020.
- ❖ The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is an instrument designed to enhance transparency in international climate politics.
- ❖ It is an annual publication by German watch, New Climate Institute and Climate Action Network Europe.
- ❖ It evaluates the climate protection performance of 60 countries, responsible for over 90% of global energy-related CO₂ emissions.



STATES

Telangana hospital enters Guinness Book of World Records

- ❖ The MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Centre has become the first State-run hospital in Telangana to enter into Guinness Book of World Records.
- ❖ The Guinness recognition to the hospital has come for conducting the largest men's health awareness programme on prostate cancer.



- ❖ The awareness programme was attended by 487 men in a single day.
