

January – 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A 1982 IOFS (Indian Ordnance Factories Service) officer **Saurabh Kumar** took over as the **Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF)** and chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) following the superannuation of P.K. Shrivastava in Kolkata.
- ❖ P K Singh was appointed secretary of the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- ❖ The Department of Financial Services announced the appointment of Hemant Bhargava, Managing Director, Life Insurance Corporation of India, as the Acting Chairman.
- ❖ A 12-year-old Indian-origin student **Dhruv Manoj** from Singapore has bagged two gold medals at the **World Memory Championships** held in Hong Kong.
- ❖ IIT Roorkee professor **Jayanta Kumar Ghosh** was facilitated with the **National Geospatial Award for Excellence -2017** (Life Time Achievement Award) by the Indian Society for Remote Sensing.
 - It has been awarded for his contribution towards the development of geospatial science and applications.
- ❖ The players in **France's football team** which last year defeated Croatia to win the World Cup were **awarded the Legion of Honour**, France's highest award for "exceptional service" to the nation, in the New Year's honours list.
 - The football World Cup 2018 at Russia was France's **2nd** World Cup title, after the 1998 World Cup.
- ❖ Lakhs of women from across Kerala formed **a 620-km long Women's Wall or Vanitha Mathil**, that stretched from Kasargod in northern Kerala to the southernmost district of Thiruvananthapuram, to uphold gender equality and renaissance values on January 1, 2019.
- ❖ Indian fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah became the highest international wicket-taker of 2018 with 78 wickets.
- ❖ The Eminent English and Odia writer Manoj Das received the Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja National Award for Lifetime Achievement in Literature, instituted by the Berhampur University.
- ❖ India defeated Australia at Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) of Australia by the margin of 137 runs and it turned out to be India's 150th Test victory.
 - It is their first ever Boxing Day Test win in Australia.



NATIONAL

Doubling Farmers' Income (DFI) committee

- ❖ The government will soon be appointing a committee to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the DFI committee.

DFI committee

- ❖ A committee has been constituted in 2016 to look into the entire agriculture ecosystem in the country to suggest ways and means to reform it.
- ❖ For this purpose, an expert committee headed by Ashok Dalwai was constituted to suggest recommendations.
- ❖ It is expected that farmers' income can be doubled by 2022 by these recommendations.

Panel to protect Assam's heritage

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of a high-level committee for implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.
- ❖ The committee shall examine the effectiveness of actions since 1985 to implement Clause 6.
- ❖ It provides for constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of Assam.
- ❖ After the Assam agitation of 1979-1985, the accord was signed on 15 August, 1985.

INTERNATIONAL

France introduced GAFA tax

- ❖ France has introduced a new "GAFA tax" to ensure the global giants pay a fair share of taxes on their massive businesses in Europe.
- ❖ It has been named after the large internet and technology companies Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon.



ECONOMY

India's Fiscal Stability Report - RBI

- ❖ The Bi-annual Reserve Bank of India has recently released the 18th issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR) for the year 2018.
- ❖ The FSR reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on risks to financial stability, as also the resilience of the financial system.
- ❖ This is the first such report that has been published after Mr. Shaktikanta Das became the Governor of RBI in December following Urjit Patel's departure.

Key Findings

- ❖ The GNPA ratio of both public and private sector banks showed a half-yearly decline, for the first time since March 2015.
- ❖ The Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCB) ratio declined from 11.5% in March 2018 to 10.8% in September 2018.
- ❖ The ratio of Restructured Standard Advances (RSAs) steadily declined to 0.5% in September 2018.

STATES

2 initiatives under Krishi Krishak Bandhu

- ❖ The West Bengal government has announced two welfare initiatives for farmers as a part of the 'Krishi Krishak Bandhu' scheme.
 1. If a farmer aged between 18 to 60 years dies a natural or unnatural death, the state government will pay his family Rs 2 lakh.
 2. Farmers would get Rs 2,500 twice a year for growing a single crop on one acre of land.

Maharashtra - 100% electrification

- ❖ The Maharashtra government has achieved 100% electrification on 27 December, 2018.



- ❖ The government had set itself a deadline of December 31, 2018 for 100% electrification under the Centre's Saubhagya Yojna, launched in September 2017.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

National Legal Services Authority Executive Chairman

- ❖ The President has nominated Justice of Supreme Court Arjan Kumar Sikri as the Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).
- ❖ The NALSA was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987
- ❖ It has been constituted to provide free legal services to the weaker sections of the society and to organise Lok Adalat's for settlement of disputes.
- ❖ The Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief and the Senior most Judge of the Supreme Court of India is the Executive Chairman of the Authority.

SPORTS

34-year-old record broken

- ❖ Indian pace trio of Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah broke the 34-year record of highest test wickets in a calendar year.
- ❖ They have become the most successful pace trio with 131 wickets in 2018.
- ❖ The record was previously held by the West Indies seamers Joel Garner, Michael Holding and Malcolm Marshall who had taken 130 wickets in 1984.

Rishabh Pant - Equaling World Record

- ❖ Rishabh Pant (India) has equalled the world record of most catches in a Test by a wicket keeper with Englishman Jack Russell & AB de Villiers (South Africa).
- ❖ Rishabh Pant equalled the record by taking 11 catches against Australia in the 3rd Test Match.
- ❖ He also became the 1st ever Indian player to take 20 catches in a Test series by surpassing former Indian cricketers Naren Tamhane and Syed Kirmani.



- ❖ Brad Haddin from Australia holds the record for taking most catches in a Test series (29).

IMPORTANT DAYS

DRDO day – 01 January

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its establishment day on 1st January, 2019 throughout its laboratories and facilities in the country.
- ❖ The DRDO has made the country self-reliant in areas of missiles, radars, sonars and torpedoes and many other systems.
