



January – 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The highest run-getter in the Ranji Trophy history, Wasim Jaffer, became the first Indian and the first Asian batsman to score two double centuries after turning 40 in first-class cricket.
- ❖ The President of India has recently appointed Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy as the Acting Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court.
- ❖ The Pakistan President Arif Alvi administered oath to Justice Asif Saeed Khosa, who took office as the 26th Chief Justice of Pakistan.
 - He is known as the “poetic justice” for his habit of citing works of literature in his judgements.
- ❖ The Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has appointed Senior IPS Officer Prabhat Singh as Director General (Investigation) in the National Human Rights Commission.
- ❖ The Chhattisgarh Election Commission has developed an app to keep track of its polling officials at the conference of Chief Electoral Officers of various States held in New Delhi. This app will streamline the personnel management during the polls.
 - Meanwhile, the Madhya Pradesh Election Commission showcased an app developed by its poll machinery to ensure the queue-less voting experience for people with disabilities and pregnant women.

NATIONAL

7th ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers meeting

- ❖ The Union Tourism Minister K. J. Alphons, co-chaired the 7th Meeting of Tourism Ministers of ASEAN-India with Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam, Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thien.
- ❖ The Meeting was held in Ha Long City in Viet Nam.
- ❖ As a follow up to the Summit, the Ministers launched the ASEAN-India Tourism Cooperation Year 2019.



India's 2nd defence innovation hub

- ❖ The Union Minister of State for Defence Subhash Bhamre announced that Nashik in Maharashtra will be the site of the country's second defence innovation hub after Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ This is in line with the Defence Ministry's target of making the country among the top five arms exporters by 2025.

INTERNATIONAL

Palestine takes over chairmanship of G77

- ❖ Palestine took over the chairmanship of the Group of 77 from Arab Republic of Egypt.
- ❖ The decision to elect Palestine as 2019 Chair of the G77 was taken in September 2018 by the foreign ministers of the Groups' member States.
- ❖ In October 2018, the UN General Assembly approved a resolution enabling Palestine, to have additional privileges and rights.

Privileges and Rights such as participating in international conferences held under its auspices, for the duration of its role as G77 Chair.

- ❖ Palestine is not the member-state of UN, but it has the status of non-member observer state similar to Holy city of Vatican.
- ❖ The Chairmanship is based on the system of geographical rotation (between Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean) and is held for one year.
- ❖ G77 is a coalition of 134 developing nations (including China) at the United Nations.
- ❖ G77 was formed on 15 June 1964 by the "Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Countries" issued at the UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Japan launches Epsilon-4 rocket with 7 satellites

- ❖ Japan has recently launched the Epsilon – 4 rocket carrying 7 satellites from the Uchinoura Space Center in Kagoshima.
- ❖ The Epsilon is a solid fuel rocket equipped with artificial intelligence technology that cuts labour and launch costs.
- ❖ It can be controlled from the ground by just two personal computers.

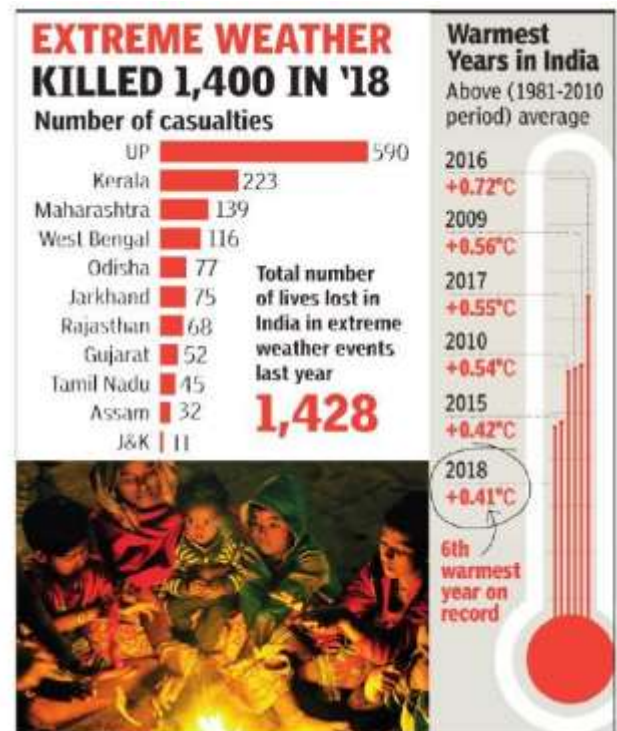
Note

- ❖ One of the 7 satellites is supposed to generate fake meteor shower.
- ❖ It aims to create the world's first artificial meteor shower next year, above the coastal region of Hiroshima Prefecture.

ENVIRONMENT

Climate of India during 2018 – IMD Report

- ❖ The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has recently released a report titled 'Climate of India during 2018'.
- ❖ As per the report, 2018 was the 6th warmest year in India since 1901 and 4th warmest year globally on record.
- ❖ The report showed that the average temperature over India during 2018 was "significantly above normal".
- ❖ The annual mean surface air temperature (averaged over the country) during the year was 0.41°C above (1981-2010) average.
- ❖ The annual mean temperature during 1901-2018 showed an increasing trend of 0.6 °C per 100 years.
- ❖ All the six warmest years on record in India were in the last 10 years.





- ❖ As far as 2018 is concerned, the winter season was the fifth warmest since 1901.

14th session of the CoP to UNCCD

- ❖ As per the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, India will host the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (CoP) to United Nations Convention to combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 2019.
- ❖ The conference aims to address the issues of land degradation and desertification.
- ❖ UNCCD COP-14 aims to showcase the India's commitment to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030.

Sustainable Catchment Forest Management

- ❖ The Tripura CM Biplab Kumar Dev has recently launched a project for Sustainable Catchment Forest Management (SCATFORM) at Hatipara in West Tripura.
- ❖ It is a Rs. 1,000 crore project for a span of 10 years to improve forestlands in targeted catchment areas of Tripura.
- ❖ The project is jointly funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Government of India.
 - 80% - JICA & 20% - state and central government (India)
- ❖ Under the SCATFORM project, a total of 1,447 check dams will be set up in hilly areas in seven districts of Tripura.

STATES

Shaurya Award - Haryana

- ❖ The Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar has recently announced "Shaurya Award" to students in the name of 71 state police force martyrs who laid down their lives while maintaining law and order and protecting society since the formation of state in 1966.
- ❖ A prize money of Rs. 11,000 will be given to students for courageous deeds every year in a village block where school is located under this award.



- ❖ He also released a book titled “Martyrs of Haryana Police” which highlights the heroic deeds of the police personnel.

SPORTS

1st away team to win bilateral series in all formats - India

- ❖ India defeated Australia in the 3rd ODI at Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) to win the ODI series by 2-1.
- ❖ With this, India became the first Visiting team to win bilateral series across the 3 formats against Australia in Australian soil.
- ❖ The Indian team lead by Virat Kohli also became the first ever Indian side to win bilateral ODI series in Australia.
- ❖ Yuzvendra Chahal was given the player of the match award whereas Veteran Player M. S. Dhoni was honoured with Player of the series award.
