



January – 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Madras high court has become the first high court to entertain a PIL against the Centre's 10% reservation for economically weaker sections of forward communities.
 - The petition was filed by Rajya Sabha MP and the DMK's Organising Secretary RS Bharathi.
- ❖ The Delhi High Court has allowed the release of the movie '72 Hours – Martyr who never died'. The film was based on the life of the 1962 war hero Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat.
 - Rawat was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra for gallantry during the 1962 war.'
- ❖ Facebook grants \$7.5 million to set up an Institute for Ethics in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in collaboration with the Technical University of Munich (TUM) in Germany.

TAMIL NADU

World record in bull taming event

- ❖ A grand "jallikattu" event held at Viralimalai, Pudukkottai on 20th January has entered the world record for the maximum number of bulls released into the sporting arena.
- ❖ A whopping 1,353 bulls and 700 tamers participated in the mega jallikattu event, which is almost double than the previous record.
- ❖ For the first time in the country, a temporary trauma care unit was established near the Jallikattu venue with all the facilities to perform surgeries.

NATIONAL

Armoured Systems Complex (ASC)

- ❖ The Prime Minister inaugurated the Armoured Systems Complex (ASC), developed by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at Hazira near Surat in Gujarat.



- ❖ This Armoured Systems Complex (ASC) is the country's first private facility where the K9 Vajra self-propelled Howitzer guns will be manufactured.
- ❖ The Armoured Systems Complex (ASC) at Hazira is a striking example of Make in India Defence.

National Conference on Self Reliance in Defence Manufacturing

- ❖ The 2nd edition of the National Conference on Self Reliance in Defence Manufacturing is organised at Hyderabad.
- ❖ The National Conference is being held by Forum for Integrated National Security in association with Indigenous Defence Entrepreneurs Association.
- ❖ The first National Conference on Self Reliance in Defence Manufacturing was held in 2015 at Hyderabad.

PwC Global Economy Watch

- ❖ The Global Economy Watch report has been released by the London based multinational professional services network- PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).
- ❖ The report monitors trends and issues affecting the global economy and details its latest projections for the leading nations.
- ❖ India and France are likely to surpass the UK in the world's largest economy rankings in 2019, pushing it down to 7th place from 5th in the global table.
- ❖ The report projects real GDP growth of 1.6% for the UK, 1.7% for France and 7.6% for India in 2019.
- ❖ The US was the world's largest economy followed by China, Japan and Germany.

ENVIRONMENT

Methanol Blending to cut Carbon-di-oxide Emissions

- ❖ The Pune-based Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) conducted a study using 15% methanol (M-15) blended with petrol in vehicles and tested them for 3,000 km.
- ❖ The study revealed that methanol blending with petrol in the existing BS-IV standard cars resulted in the reduction of the CO₂ emissions substantially.

- ❖ The objective of the study was to evaluate emissions in real-world conditions as well as check the performance of the vehicles.
- ❖ The study, also found that hydrocarbon emission reduced marginally, with a slight increase in nitrogen oxides.

Two new species of moss rose

- ❖ Botanists have discovered the two new species from Badami hills in Bagalkot district of Karnataka.
- ❖ The species have been named *Portulaca badamica* and *Portulaca lakshminarasimhaniana*.
- ❖ *Portulaca badamica* is named after the site of its discovery that is, the Badami hills.
- ❖ *Portulaca lakshmi narasimhaniana* is named after Pakshirajan Lakshminarasimhan for his significant contribution to plant taxonomy.
- ❖ IUCN Status - *Portulaca badamica* - data deficient category and *Portulaca lakshminarasimhaniana*- critically endangered.

Small Woodbrown butterfly

- ❖ Researchers of Sikkim rediscovered the Small Woodbrown butterfly species from Bakhim in Khanchendzonga National Park after a span of 120 long years.
- ❖ The Small Woodbrown butterfly was first discovered in Sikkim in 1887 by a scientist named de Nicéville.
- ❖ The Small Woodbrown butterfly, scientifically known as *Lethe nicetella* is named after its brown-coloured wings patched with white round spots.
- ❖ It is amongst the smallest members of the genus *Lethe*, with wings that are up to 50mm long.





Triple-drug therapy to fight elephantiasis

- ❖ Maharashtra in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended triple-drug therapy for lymphatic filariasis to speed up elimination of the disease in Nagpur.
- ❖ Lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as elephantiasis, is a neglected tropical disease.
- ❖ Actor Swapnil Joshi is assigned as brand ambassador for this project.
- ❖ This disease is transmitted through mosquitoes.
- ❖ The infection is usually acquired in childhood, causing hidden damage to the lymphatic system.

STATES

Madhu Babu Pension Yojana

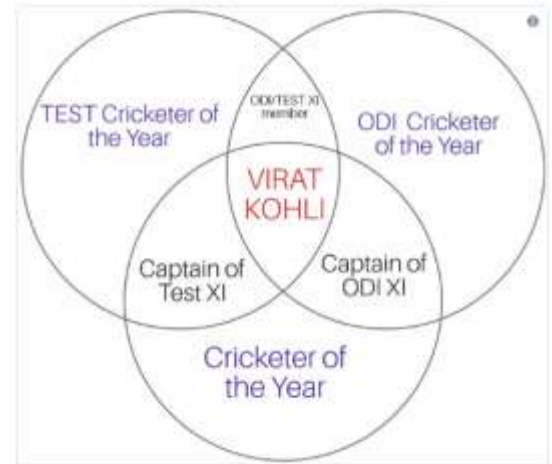
- ❖ The Odisha CM Navven Patnaik has announced a hike of Rs 200 per month in the social security pension under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY).
- ❖ The state government launched Madhu Babu Pension Yojana on January 1, 2008, by merging two pension schemes – Old Age Pension and Odisha Disability Pension schemes.
- ❖ The objective of MBPY is to provide financial assistance to the destitute elderly and destitute differently abled persons in the state.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

ICC Awards 2018

- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the 2018 Men's Awards after a competitive year of matches across all formats.

- ❖ Indian skipper Virat Kohli became the first player in history to win all the top 3 ICC's annual individual awards in a single calendar year.
- ❖ Thus, he won the
 - Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year (2nd time in a row),
 - ICC Men's Test Player of the Year and
 - ICC ODI Player of the Year awards (2nd time in a row)
- ❖ While this is the first time, he has bagged the Test Cricketer of the Year award.
- ❖ He has also been named captain of ICC's Test and ODI teams of 2018
- ❖ Wicketkeeper batsman, Rishabh Pant was named the "ICC's Emerging Player of the year" for his brilliant performance in Test Cricket in 2018.
- ❖ New Zealand captain Kane Williamson bagged the ICC Spirit of Cricket award while Kumar Dharmasena was adjudged Umpire of the Year.
- ❖ Aaron Finch's 76-ball 172 vs Zimbabwe was adjudged T20I Performance of the Year.



CAPTAIN KOHLI GOES WHERE NO CRICKETER HAS GONE BEFORE

Virat Kohli becomes first player in history to win all top 3 ICC awards. He is named:

- 1** Sir Garfield Sobers cricketer of the year
- 2** Test player of the year
- 3** ICC men's ODI player of the year

A VIRAT 2018 PERFORMANCE

1,322 runs in 13 Tests at average of 55.1, with 5 centuries	1,202 runs in 14 ODIs at 133.6, 6 centuries	No.1 in both Test and ODI rankings
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KOHLI SKIPPER OF 2018'S DREAM TEST & ODI TEAMS

- Pant, Bumrah also in world Test XI
- Rohit Sharma, Kuldeep Yadav & Bumrah in ODI team



MISCELLANEOUS

Operation Kabaddi

- ❖ The book 'Line on Fire: Ceasefire Violations and India-Pakistan Escalation Dynamics' has revealed an operation codenamed 'Operation Kabaddi' in the post-Kargil scenario.
- ❖ The operation plan envisaged the capture of some 25-30 Pakistani posts along the LoC in September 2001 to prevent the infiltration of terrorists into Kashmir.
- ❖ Apparently, the operation was aborted by the intervention of 9/11 terror attacks and onset of the United States' led Operation Enduring Freedom in the region.
- ❖ The book was authored by the JNU academic Professor Happymon Jacob.