



January – 24

TAMIL NADU

New paddy variety

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute (TRRI), Aduthurai, has released a new short duration rice variety christened as ADT 53.
- ❖ This short-term variety has a maturity period of 105 to 110 days.
- ❖ The new ADT 53 variety is a boon to the farmers as it is superior to the ADT 43 variety in terms of yield and quality.
- ❖ The new variety will suit the requirements of farmers for
 - Kuruvai or Kodai (summer) seasons in the delta districts and
 - Sornavari or Navarai seasons in other districts.
- ❖ It has a milling capacity of 62% and full rice capacity of 65 %.
- ❖ It also has rich content of Zinc and Iron.
- ❖ ADT 53 variety is a cross derivative of ADT 43 / JGL 384.

NATIONAL

NITI Aayog-led Committee to monitor pricing of drugs

- ❖ The Government has constituted a Standing Committee headed by NITI Aayog to oversee the drug pricing regime.
- ❖ It is seen as a move that would curb the powers of the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) when it comes to regulating the prices of medicines in the country.
- ❖ The Standing Committee on Affordable Medicines and Health Products will be headed by NITI Aayog Member (Health).
- ❖ The committee will be a recommending body to the NPPA regarding prices of drugs and health products.
- ❖ It will examine issues Suo-moto or on recommendation of Department of Pharma, NPPA and Department of Health.
- ❖ The NPPA was established as an autonomous regulator in 1997.

- ❖ Its objective is to oversee and set the prices of drugs and products on the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), prepared by the Health Ministry, and set price caps.

India Steel 2019 Exhibition and Conference

- ❖ The 4th International Exhibition & Conference on Steel Industry, India Steel 2019 Exhibition and Conference at NSE Complex Goregaon, Mumbai.
- ❖ It was organised by Ministry of Steel in association with Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- ❖ The theme of the event is “Balancing Steel Demand & Supply Dynamics: Building a New India”.
- ❖ The India Steel-2019 is part of series of initiatives to develop a globally competitive steel industry in line with National Steel Policy (NSP)-2107.
 - NSP-2017 envisages production of 300 million tonnes of steels by 2030-31.



INTERNATIONAL

Iran satellite failure

- ❖ Iran launched a satellite named 'Payam' with the Safir satellite carrier on 15 January, but it failed to be placed in orbit in the final stage.
- ❖ The United States has criticised the launch as a breach of a UN Security Council Resolution 2231.



- ❖ US & Israel claims that the space programme is a cover for the development of longer-range ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads.
- ❖ Iran also plans to launch another low Earth orbit satellite Doosti (Friendship in Persian).
- ❖ The Payam (Message in Persian) and Doosti were both designed to gather information on environmental changes in Iran.

ECONOMY

India Ratings Report

- ❖ According to a report released by India Ratings, India's fiscal deficit may go up to 3.2% in Financial Year 2020.
- ❖ It is due to populist schemes like farm loan waivers and other financial support schemes which may be announced before the forthcoming general elections.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are most susceptible to see an increase in debt in Financial Year 2020.
- ❖ States' revenue account may clock an aggregate deficit of 0.5% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in FY20 due to higher growth in revenue spending than revenue receipt.
- ❖ Earlier a fiscal deficit of 2.8% was forecasted by India Ratings in FY19 mid-year forecast.



STATES

Bengal's tableau for the Republic day parade 2019

- ❖ The Central Government has accepted West Bengal's tableau theme of 'Gandhi-Tagore' unity for the Republic day parade this year.
- ❖ The Bengal tableau showcases 'Shantiniketan and Gandhi at Beliaghata' as the theme revolving around two father figures, Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore.
- ❖ West Bengal's CM has conceived the theme remembering Gandhi meeting Tagore in March 1915 at Tagore's 'Shyamoli' home.



Background

- ❖ This is for the first time when the Defense ministry had selected the theme of the tableaux for the Republic Day Parade.
- ❖ Gandhiji was selected as the theme to mark the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary.

First inter-state bridge - J&K

- ❖ The Union minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the 1.2 km-long Keediyar-Gandiyal bridge on the Ravi river in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The first inter-state bridge links the secluded areas of Kathua district with Punjab.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Chhatra Viswakarma & Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) awards

- ❖ The Vice president of India presented the 2nd Chhatra Viswakarma Award to Students and their mentors and Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) awards to educational institution.
- ❖ These awards were presented at an event organized by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) at New Delhi.
- ❖ The theme of 2nd Chhatra Viswakarma Award **was 'Empowerment of villages through technologies'**.
- ❖ Whereas the theme of Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana was **"Developed Village – Developed Nations"**.
- ❖ The Chhatra Viswakarma Award Awards were given to encourage the young students to come up with novel ideas in order to improve the life of people in villages.
- ❖ Under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, College of Technology and Engineering Udaipur, Rajasthan got the first prize.



Category	Winner
Educational skill initiative and startups	Gokaraju Rangaraju Institute of Engineering and Technology, Telangana
Any other rural appropriate technologies	Army Institute of Technology, Maharashtra
Rural Craft and Livelihood, Rural infrastructure, tourism	Shri Venkateshwara College of Engineering, Andhra Pradesh
Agriculture and food	Sri Krishna College of Technology, Tamil Nadu
water and irrigation	Aditya Engineering College, Andhra Pradesh

SPORTS

National Table Tennis champion 2018

- ❖ The Senior National Table Tennis Championships of the year 2018 was held recently in Cuttack, Odisha.
- ❖ Achanta Sharath Kamal (TN) has created history at the 80th National Table Tennis Championship by winning the title for the 9th time by beating G Sathian (TN) in the final.
- ❖ Sharath broke the long-standing record of Kamlesh Mehta who had 8 wins in the National Table Tennis Championship.
- ❖ Archana Kamath (18) from Karnataka beat Krittwika Sinha Roy of West Bengal and won her first senior singles national title.
- ❖ Thus, Archana become the 2nd paddler from Karnataka after Usha Sunder Raj, a 5-time national champion, to win the crown.





IMPORTANT DAYS

National Girl Child Day - 24 January

- ❖ The National Girl Child Day is celebrated in India on 24 January with an aim to raise awareness about Child Sex Ratio (CSR) levels and promote the empowerment of girls.
- ❖ The theme of National Girl Child Day for the year 2019 is “Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow”.
- ❖ The observance of the day focuses on important issues pertaining to Girls such as declining sex ratio, female foeticide, child marriage, gender inequality and disparity in India.
- ❖ On the same occasion, the Women and Child Development Ministry also observed the anniversary of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme.


