

January – 25

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A renowned Lingayat seer, Shivakumara Swami, popularly known as 'Nadedaaduva Devaru' (Walking God), the 111-year-old head of the Siddaganga Mutt, passed away on 21 January at the mutt in Tumakuru, Karnataka.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh celebrated its 69th foundation day in Lucknow as "UP DIVAS" on January 24, 2019. Uttar Pradesh earlier known as United Province, got its name as Uttar Pradesh on January 24, 1950.
- ❖ The inter-state trade through e-NAM was initiated on January 19 with the first trade of 8.46 quintal of groundnut between a farmer from Gadwal Mandi in Telangana and a trader from Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The Competition Commission of India gave approval to Reliance Industries for the acquisition of Den Networks and Hathway Cable and Datacom.
 - Reliance acquired 66% in DEN and 51.3% in Hathway.
- ❖ The President of India has appointed Piyush Goyal as the interim finance and corporate affairs minister because of Arun Jaitley's health issues. Piyush Goyal's tenure as an interim finance Minister will be till August 2019.
 - This is the second time, Goyal has been given charge of the Finance Ministry.
- ❖ The West African country Burkina Faso's President appointed Christophe Joseph Marie Dabire a new Prime Minister as Paul Kaba Theiba and his cabinet resigned recently.
- ❖ 96-year-old Karthyayani Amma from Kerala, who topped the Kerala Literacy Mission's Akshara Laksham (Million Letters) literacy exam has been selected as the Commonwealth of Learning Goodwill Ambassador.
 - The Commonwealth of Learning is aimed at promoting distance education in the member countries.
- ❖ Aparna Kumar (Karnataka) has become the first woman Indian Police Service (IPS) and ITBP (Indo Tibetan Border Police) officer to successfully conquer the South Pole, the southernmost point on the globe situated in Antarctica.
 - The South Pole is the coldest and driest place on Earth.



TAMILNADU

Kindergarten in Government Schools

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu CM kicked off a pilot project on 21st January enabling children to attend kindergarten classes based on Montessori education in English medium at government middle schools with anganwadi centres in the State.
- ❖ In this regard kindergarten sections were inaugurated at the Presidency Girls Higher Secondary School in Egmore, Chennai.
- ❖ It is expected to benefit over 52,000 students in 2,381 anganwadis.
- ❖ The classes would be conducted jointly by the School Education Department and the Social Welfare Department in all 32 districts.
- ❖ The schools would be managed by headmasters of middle schools and would be under the administrative control of officials of the Integrated Child Development Scheme.
- ❖ The surplus secondary grade teachers will be utilised for the same.
- ❖ Teachers who are to teach the children would be trained under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan.
- ❖ Four set of school uniforms, one set of footwear, stationery and a course completion certificate would be provided by the State government.
- ❖ The scheme is aimed at improving students' learning skills, spoken and writing ability in English.
- ❖ The government is optimistic that it will encourage parents to opt for government schools.
- ❖ As much as 7 crores has been released towards this project.
- ❖ It is a pilot project for three years.

NATIONAL

New Naval Air Base 'INS KOHASSA' at Andaman

- ❖ The Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba commissioned the new Naval Air Base 'INS KOHASSA' at Diglipur, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ The air base will be used for both defence and civil aircraft and it will function as an independent unit.



- ❖ Being the 3rd air base in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, INS Kohassa will be used for surveillance of Chinese ships and submarines entering the Indian Ocean through Malacca Strait.

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar award

- ❖ The government formed an annual award titled Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar.
- ❖ This award is to be awarded every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.



- ❖ The Award carries a certificate and a cash prize of 51 lakh rupees.
- ❖ For the year 2019, 8th Battalion of National Disaster Response Force located at Ghaziabad is selected for its work in disaster management.



Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana

- ❖ The Prime Minister has recently launched Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana in New Delhi.
- ❖ Under this scheme, a group of Indian diasporas will be taken on a government-sponsored tour of religious places in India twice a year.
- ❖ Under the eligibility criteria, all people of Indian-origin, aged between 45 and 65 can apply and a group will be selected out of them.
- ❖ The first preference will be given to people from 'Girmitiya countries' such as Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica.

INTERNATIONAL

Edelman Trust Barometer report 2019

- ❖ The 2019 Edelman Trust Barometer report by the Edelman Intelligence has been released.
- ❖ It is an international study based on the opinions of elites that focuses on the principles of trust in business, government, media and NGOs.
- ❖ Based on the findings the report calculates the Global Trust Index.
- ❖ The important findings are
 - India is among the most trusted nations globally when it comes to government, business, NGOs and media but the country's brands are among the least-trusted.
 - India stood at the 2nd place in the informed public category and 3rd place in the general population category where China topped both.
 - Companies headquartered in Switzerland, Germany and Canada were the most trusted ones.
 - Companies headquartered in India, Mexico and Brazil are the least trusted, followed by China and South Korea.

Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2019

- ❖ The Global Talent Competitive Index was released on the first day of the 49th World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2019 in Davos, Switzerland.



- ❖ The annual index is prepared by the INSEAD business school in partnership with Tata Communications and Adecco Group.
- ❖ The index measures how countries grow, attract and retain talent.

Top 10 cities



- ❖ Even though India has moved up one position to rank 80th on the index, India remains a laggard among the BRICS nations.
- ❖ Switzerland is followed by Singapore, the US, Norway and Denmark in the top five on the list.
- ❖ The talent gap between higher and lower-income countries has widened over the last 5 years.
- ❖ China's ranking fell by two places to 45 but also it managed to be the best performer among BRICS countries.

Top 10 countries





ENVIRONMENT

WHO list of 10 global health threats

- ❖ The WHO list of 10 global health threats, which demands immediate attention from WHO and health partners in 2019, has been released. These are
 - Air pollution and climate change
 - Non-transmissible diseases
 - Global influenza pandemic
 - Fragile and vulnerable settings
 - Antimicrobial resistance
 - Ebola and other high-threat pathogens
 - Weak Primary Health Care
 - Vaccine hesitancy
 - Dengue
 - HIV

SPORTS

Federer - Australian Open 2019

- ❖ The Australian Open tennis tournament has begun on 14th January at Melbourne, Australia.
- ❖ Defending champion Roger Federer has been knocked out of the Australian Open 2019 after losing to Stefanos Tsitsipas.
- ❖ Tsitsipas, thus became the first Greek in history to reach the quarter-finals of a Slam.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Education - 24 January

- ❖ The 24th January is observed as International Day of Education all over the world.



- ❖ The UN General Assembly on 03 December 2018, decided to celebrate 24 January as International Day of Education, in a way to appraise the role of education for peace and development.
- ❖ The right to education is represented in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
