



February – 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Punjab government approved a rural development scheme worth Rs 384.40 crore to supplement the ongoing works to build village infrastructure and provide essential amenities named 'Smart Village Campaign'.
 - This scheme would be financed with funds from the 14th Financial Commission and MGNREGA works.
- ❖ An agreement was signed between Israel Aerospace Industries, Indian Navy and Cochin Shipyard for providing Naval Medium Range Surface to air missile systems to India.
- ❖ The Army Dental Corps celebrated 78th Corps Day on February 01.

NATIONAL

Budget 2019

- ❖ The Union Finance Minister Piyush Goyal presented an Interim Budget for 2019 in Parliament on 2019 February 01.
- ❖ An Interim Budget usually doesn't list out any new schemes or doesn't unveil any policy measures.
- ❖ The government will present the vote on account for the next four-to-five months.
- ❖ A full-fledged Budget will be presented after the House reassembles after the general election.

Some important Highlights of the Budget

- ❖ No income tax for earnings up to Rs 5 lakh.
- ❖ Target of 3% of fiscal deficit to be achieved by 2020-21.
- ❖ Decision taken to increase MSP (Minimum Support Price) by 1.5 times the production cost for all 22 crops.
- ❖ 12 crore small and marginal farmers are to be provided with assured yearly income of Rs. 6000 per annum under Pm-Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana.
- ❖ Mega pension scheme for workers in the unorganised sector with an income of less than Rs 15,000. They will be able to earn Rs 3000 after the age of 60. The scheme will be called Pradhan Mantri Shramyogi Maan Dhan Yojana.

- ❖ 25 per cent of sourcing for government projects will be from the MSMEs, of which three per cent will be from women entrepreneurs.
- ❖ A new committee under NITI Ayog to identify all the remaining De-notified nomadic and semi-Nomadic tribes.
- ❖ National Artificial Intelligence portal to be developed soon.
- ❖ One lakh digital village planned in the next five years.
- ❖ Within the next 2 years, all verification of tax returns to be done electronically without any interface of officials with the taxpayer.
- ❖ All income tax returns to be processed within 24 hours and refunds to be issued simultaneously.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi announced in 2019 budget is to provide assured income support to all small and marginal farmers.
- ❖ Under this programme, vulnerable landholding farmer families, having cultivable land upto 2 hectares, will be provided direct income support at the rate of Rs. 6,000 per year.



- ❖ This income support will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiary farmers, in three equal instalments of Rs. 2,000 each.
- ❖ The programme would be made effective from 1st December 2018 and the first payment for the period upto 31st March 2019.



Padma awardees 2019

- ❖ The government announced names of the Padma awardees 2019 on the day before the 70th Republic Day (25.01.2019).
- ❖ Padma Vibhushan and the Padma Bhushan are the second and third highest civilian awards of the country respectively.
- ❖ This year 112 recipients have been selected for the prestigious awards. This includes 4 Padma Vibhushan, 14 Padma Bhushan and 94 Padma Shri awards.
 - Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service.
 - Padma Bhushan is for distinguished service of high order.
 - Padma Shri is for distinguished service in any field.
- ❖ 21 of the awardees are women and the list also include 11 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, 3 Posthumous awardees and 1 transgender person.
- ❖ Following Seven peoples from Tamil Nadu are selected for Padma Shri awards.

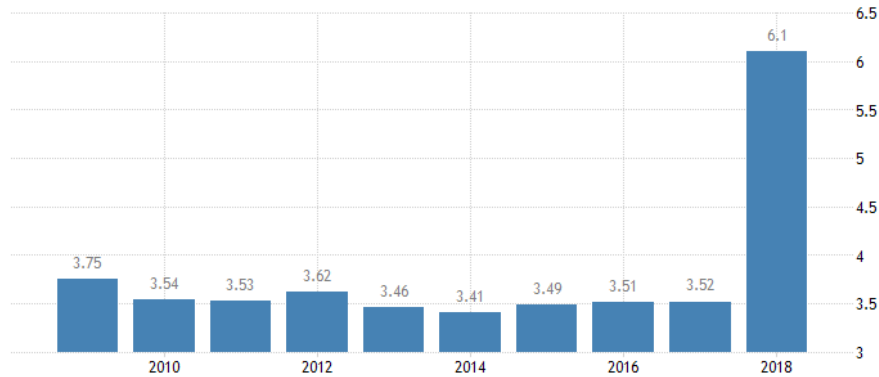
Awardees	Fields of activities
Bangaru Adigalar	Spiritualism
Sharath Kamal	Sports (Table Tennis)
Nartaki Natraj	Art-Dance (Bharatanatyam)
Madurai Chinna Pillai	Social Work (Microfinance)
R V Ramani	Medicine (Ophthalmology)
Anandan Sivamani	Art-Music
Ramaswami Venkataswami	Medicine (Surgery)

India's Unemployment Rate

- ❖ It is an official survey that has been withheld by the government.
- ❖ As per the National Sample Survey Office's (NSSO's) periodic labor force survey (PLFS) India's unemployment rate hit a 45 year high of 6.1% in 2017-18.
- ❖ It is the first comprehensive survey on employment conducted by a government agency after demonetization.
- ❖ Unemployment is higher in urban areas which is 7.8% as compared to 5.3% in rural areas of the country.



- ❖ The unemployment rate is at its highest level as in 1972-73.



- ❖ Rate of jobless rural males rose to 17.4% from 5% and among rural jobless females, the rate became 13.6% from 4.8%.

ECONOMY

Kisan Suvidha loan

- ❖ 'Kisan Suvidha loan' for small and marginal farmers was launched by Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.
- ❖ This can be used by farmers for both agriculture and allied activities.
- ❖ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launched the product in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Karnataka and Odisha.
- ❖ The loan does not require any collateral.
- ❖ Ujjivan becomes the 1st Small Finance Bank to offer loans for agriculture and allied activities.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

World's largest digital sky survey

- ❖ The Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) in US in partnership with the University of Hawai's Institute for Astronomy released the second edition of data from Pan-STARRS (Panoramic Survey Telescope & Rapid Response System), the world's largest digital sky survey.
- ❖ Pan-STARRS observatory consists of a 1.8-meter telescope equipped with a 1.4-billion-pixel digital camera.

- ❖ This was the first survey to observe the entire sky visible from Hawaii.

Artificial Pancreas Smartphone App for Diabetics

- ❖ Scientists developed an artificial pancreas smart phone app that will help to analyze blood sugar levels in diabetes patients.
- ❖ This application is formed with the capacity of to connect with glucose monitors, insulin pump devices, and decision-making algorithms.
- ❖ This application system is formed with a glucose range of 70-180 micrograms per decilitre.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Indian Coast Guard Day - February 1

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated its 42nd foundation day on 2019 February 1.
- ❖ The interim Indian Coast Guard was established on 1 February 1977 to prevent sea-borne smuggling of goods which were hampering India's domestic economy.



- ❖ The Coast Guard Act was passed by Parliament on 18th August 1978 and came into immediate effect. It defined the duties and functions of the service.



- ❖ As part of the 42nd Coast Guard Day celebrations, a mega event ‘Storm Rider Fitness Challenge’ which aimed at spreading awareness about sports and fitness among the public, was conducted at Chennai.

MISCELLANEOUS

International year of the periodic table

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly and UNESCO has announced 2019 as the international year of the periodic table of chemical elements.
- ❖ This year will coincide with the 150th anniversary of the table’s creation by Dmitry Mendeleev.

