STATES

- Karnataka – to give Kannadigas ‘first priority’ in jobs under Group C and D category in the private sector
  - The state government has decided to amend the Karnataka Industrial Employment (Standing Orders), Rules, 1961 - to implement the 1983-constituted Sarojini Mahishi Committee’s recommendations granting primacy for the Kannadigas in the private sector jobs
  - Other important recommendations of the Committee
    - 100% reservation for Kannadigas in all state government departments and PSUs
    - 100% reservation for Kannadigas for Group C and D jobs in Central government departments and PSUs
    - At least 80% reservation for Kannadigas for Group B jobs in Central government departments and PSUs
    - 65% reservation for Kannadigas for Group A jobs in Central government departments and PSUs
    - All jobs in the private sector to be reserved for Kannadigas except for senior/skilled positions, unless necessitated

NATIONAL

- The Centre – had informed that Supreme court that 63 official websites of various union ministries and central government departments have been made ‘disabled-friendly’ and have got Website Quality Certification (WQC)
  - Another 14 websites are awaiting certification, as per the centre
  - A submission to this effect was made by the additional solicitor-general G Rajagopal on a PIL seeking the ‘disabled-friendliness’ of all government websites

- India – signs a ‘security protection pact’ with Sweden – to share classified information with each other
✓ The agreement was signed during the visit of the Indian Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to Sweden
✓ Sweden has similar agreements with over 30 countries around the world, as well as with the EU and NATO

➢ Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest and Climate Change – inaugurated the North Karnataka Agromet Forecasting and Research Centre in Karnataka

✓ It is the country’s first agromet forecast centre established at University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) in Dharwad, Karnataka
✓ The main objective of the centre is to give accurate weather reports - which would enable the farmers to protect the crops and get good yield
✓ These information would be provided through various platforms like WhatsApp, SMS, social networking sites and community radio stations to the farmers
India and European Union – to fund 40 million Euros on 7 Research & Innovation projects – to deal with water challenges in the country

- Titled ‘Horizon 2020’, these projects will have an average duration of about 4 years
- The main areas of the projects are to improve the quality of drinking water, wastewater management system and real-time monitoring and control systems
- It will also deal with Ganga rejuvenation initiative
- Five IITs of Delhi, Bombay, Guwahati, Bhubaneswar, Roorkee, and CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research (CSIR-NEERI) and TERI will also collaborate in the projects
- The seven selected projects are - India-H20, LOTUS, PANI WATER, PAVITR, PAVITRA GANGA, SAÉASWATI 2.0 and SPRING

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- 5th International Dam Safety Conference 2019 – concluded in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha
The conference was a part of the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) assisted by World Bank.

The project envisages rehabilitation of 223 dams in 7 States.

- Early ED Asia 2019 – concluded in Jaipur, Rajasthan

- The first-of-its-kind conference in India, saw the participation of 6000 eminent early childhood educators, policy-makers, researchers and other stakeholders from India and foreign countries.

- Motto of the event – ‘Our children. Our future’

DEFENCE

- Indian Air Force – conducts ‘Vayu Shakti 2019’ drill in Pokhran – demonstrating the capability to hit targets with precision under adverse weather conditions through the autonomous bombing capability over the Thar desert.
✓ Around 137 aircrafts, including Sukhoi-30MKI, Mirange-2000, Jaguar, Mig-21 Bison, Mig-27, Mig-29, IL78, Hercules, AN-32 aircraft and Tejas flew from 8 airbases
✓ Vayu Shakti is held once in every 3 years

**ECONOMY**

- **The Centre – had raised the customs duty on all products imported from Pakistan by 200%**
- India had withdrawn the ‘most favoured nation’ status, granted in 1996 to Pakistan a day earlier
- The move is seen as a step to put pressure on Pakistan to act against terrorists, following its support to terrorists involved in Pulwama attack on CRPF jawans on February 14

**APPOINTMENTS**

- **India’s Chandramouli Ramanathan - has been appointed by the United Nations - as Controller & Assistant Secretary-General for UN Programme Planning, Budget and Finance in the Department of Management strategy, policy and compliance**
- He succeeds Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas of Uruguay

✓ He has vast experience leading UN’s complex change management initiatives, including implementation of IPSAS (International Public Sector Accounting Standards), and Umoja (the United Nations Enterprise Resource Planning solution)
He has been serving as Acting Controller since September 2018, concurrently with his position as Assistant Secretary-General for Enterprise Resource Planning since 2016.

He previously served as Deputy Controller, Director of Accounts Division and Chief of Service, IT Services Division.

He also served as Assistant Auditor General, India (1993-1995) and Director of Accounts for the Auditor General of India (1989-1993).

AWARDS

Swachhata Excellence awards 2019

1st Place – Raigarh Municipal Corporation (Chhattisgarh)
2nd Place – Ambikapur Municipal Corporation (Chhattisgarh)
3rd Place – Kumbakonam Municipal Corporation (Tamil Nadu)

All the above cities are ‘AMRUT’ cities

Other Award winners

1st Prize in the category of Million Plus Cities - Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation

Prizes in the ‘Statutory Towns’ category - Nagar Palika Parishad of Jashpur Nagar (Chhattisgarh), Malappuram Municipality (Kerala), and Nagar Palika Parishad Surajpur (Chhattisgarh)

Consolation prize in the category of Aspirational Districts - Chas Municipal Corporation (Bokaro district of Jharkhand)

Overall, 40 awards were distributed to the Area Level Federations (ALFs), City Livelihoods Federations (CLFs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

These Awards were given by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) as part of the Shehri Samriddhi Utsav, organized from February 1 to 15, 2019.
Swachhata Excellence Awards were instituted in 2007 to encourage Area Level Federations (ALFs) of SHGs formed under DAY-NULM.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MHUPA), Government of India on 23rd September 2013 by replacing Swarna Jayanti Rozgar Yojana.

**SPORTS**

- **Vidarbha** – retains Irani trophy by means of first innings lead - after the match against Rest of India ended in a draw in Nagpur.

- The defending champions needed to bat the entire final day to retain the title, which they did with ease.
- It became the third team after Mumbai and Karnataka to defend the Irani Trophy and Ranji Trophy.
- Vidarbha were unbeaten throughout the 2018-19 Indian domestic cricket season.
- Akshay Karnewar of Vidarbha was named as Man of the match in the final.

- **Saina Nehwal** – defeated P V Sindhu in the 83rd Yonex Sunrise Senior National Badminton championships held in Guwahati.
- With the win, 2012 Olympics bronze medallist Saina had managed to maintain four titles in four appearances.
- It was Saina’s back-to-back win in the Nationals after she won in Nagpur last year.
- Saina has lost to Sindhu only once in international events at India Open 2017.
✓ Saina had also defeated 2016 Rio Games silver medallist Sindhu at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games summit clash last year
✓ In the Men’s singles final, Sourabh Varma defeated Lakshya Sen to win the title
✓ This is Sourabh’s fifth successive win over Lakshya
✓ It was the third title for Sourabh after emerging champion in 2011 (New Delhi) and 2016 (Bengaluru)