

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 7, 2019**

**TAMIL NADU**

◆ **Tamil Nadu – ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the entire country in terms of overall GST collections**

- ✓ The state had collected 34,589 crores in this fiscal year till January (April 2018 to January 2019)
- ✓ It had received Rs 24,907 crores in the previous year upto March 2018 from July 2017, when the GST was implemented
- ✓ Overall, Maharashtra tops the country at Rs 70,792 crore collection followed by Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka
- ✓ The compensation formula worked out by the Centre and the States allows for an annual growth of 14% in GST revenue

◆ **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Edappadi K Palaniswami – announced that the Athikadavu-Avinashi water scheme will start by February-end**

- ✓ He added that the tenders for the Rs 1,652 crore project have been already called for and would be finalized soon
- ✓ The CM also said that the Godavari-Cauvery river linking scheme, enabling Tamil Nadu to get 200 tmc feet water from the Godavari in Andhra Pradesh, would begin soon at a proposed cost of Rs 60000 crores
- ✓ He was speaking at a function in Coimbatore's Vaiyampalayam where he inaugurated the Rs 1.5 crore memorial for farmer leader, C Narayanasamy Naidu



- ✓ The construction of the memorial was announced by the former chief minister, Late J Jayalalithaa in 2016

- ✓ In the early 1950s, the farmer leader was instrumental in reversing the state's decision of reducing the amount of electricity delivered to agriculture from 16 hours to 4 hours
- ✓ He also said a food park is planned to be constructed in Chennai at a cost of Rs 2,000 crore
- ✓ As per the CM, Tamil Nadu is the major beneficiary under the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance scheme for the year 2016-17
- ✓ A veterinary research centre, the largest in Asia, would be set up in Tamil Nadu, he said.

◆ **The Tamil Nadu Police – have launched a new mobile App ‘Digicop’**



கன்னடப்பேட்டை போலீஸின் பயன்பாடு குறித்த விழிப்புணர்வு குறும் படத்தை சென்னை பெருநகர காவல் ஆணையர் ஏ.கே.விசுவநாதன் வெளியிட்ட அறிவிப்பில் புகழ்பெற்ற நடிகர் விஜய் சேதுபதி உடன்கூடுதல் ஆணையர்கள் அருண், மகேசுவரன் அக்வாஸ், தினகரன்.

- ✓ It helps to trace stolen cellphones and the bikes recovered by the city police
- ✓ It will also provide information about the traffic condition in the city apart from providing information about the nearest police station
- ✓ It will work in both Android and iOS operating platforms
- ✓ It is an initiative of T Nagar DCP, P Aravindan and Adyar DCP, Sashank Sai, along with Thinkinfinitly Technology and Consulting Pvt Ltd.,

◆ **IIT-Madras – has launched a research centre on Artificial Intelligence at its campus**



- ✓ It is developed jointly in association with Robert Bosch, the Germany-based Electronics and Engineering firm
- ✓ The Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence was established with an investment of Rs 20 crore over a period of 5 years
- ✓ It will focus on research in deep learning, reinforcement learning, network analysis, interpretable machine learning and domain aware artificial intelligence

## STATES

### ◆ Assam Government – presented its budget for 2019-20 with several new schemes



- ✓ The state announced 1 tola or 11.6 grams of Gold (costing Rs 38000) for brides from families with annual income of less than Rs 5 lakhs
- ✓ It proposes the launch of 'Affordable Nutrition and Nourishment Assistance (ANNA) Yojana' from March 2019 to provide rice at Re 1 per kg instead of the present Rs 3 per kg for the benefit of 53 lakh households
- ✓ It had also promised 'e-bikes' for all girls who secure first division in higher secondary examination apart from providing free text books to all the students upto degree level
- ✓ A one-time subsidy of Rs 50,000 on all educational loans sanctioned during the current financial year will also be provided by the state government
- ✓ The Government also announced Rs 50000 cash to 200 sportspersons and artists in the state
- ✓ It had also decided to provide an 'Immediate family assistance' of Rs 25,000 to widows below 45 years
- ✓ It had set aside RS 10 lakh for 108 religious places, which are a century old

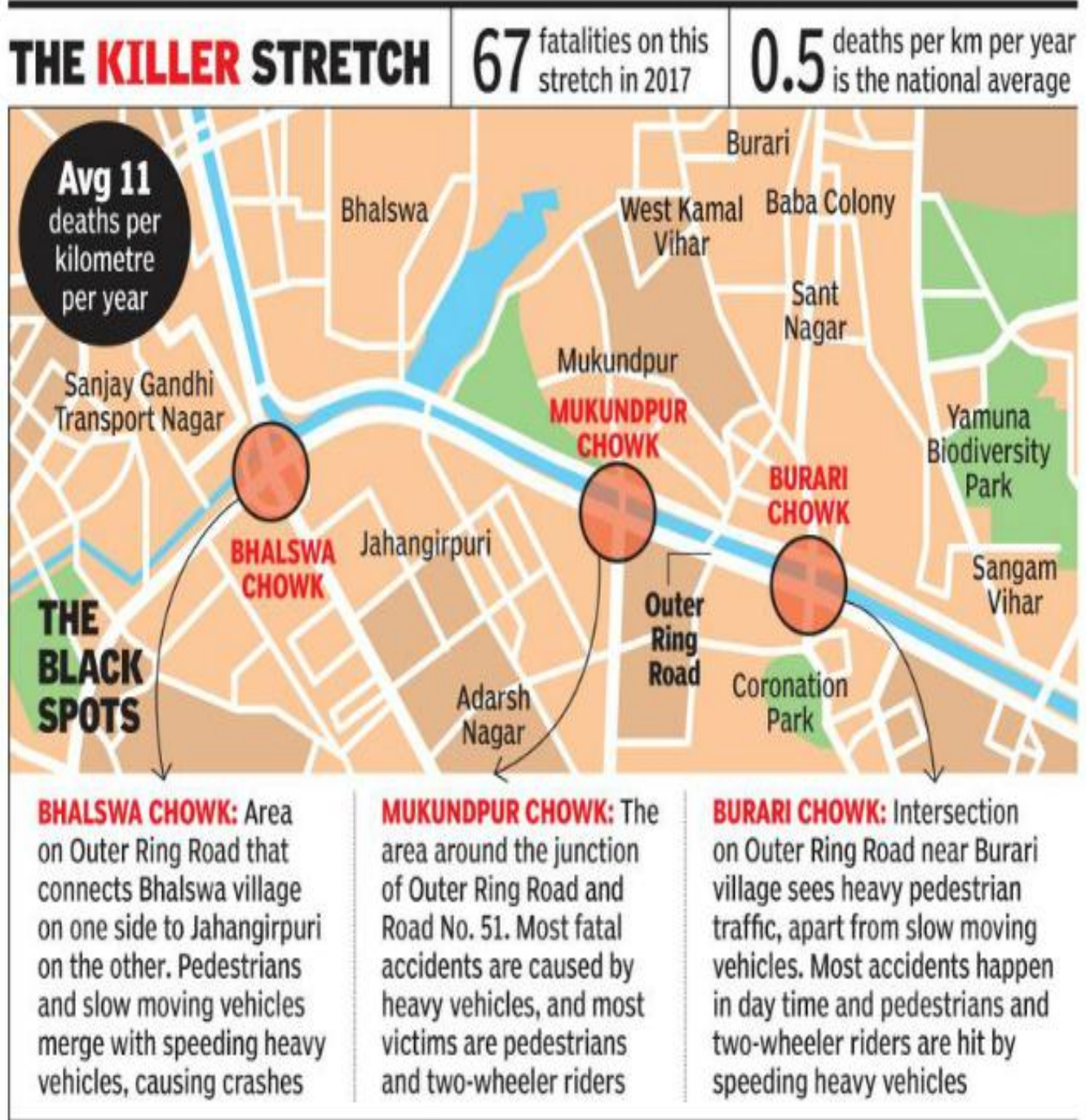
### ◆ Gujarat – announced that the shops and business in the state can stay open 24x7

- ✓ It plans to amend its own Shops and Establishments Act, which would also put an end to the need for annual renewal of licenses
- ✓ It also proposes to make mandatory for establishments employing more than 30 women to provide crèche facilities
- ✓ The state becomes 2<sup>nd</sup> in the country to do so after Maharashtra, which has already amended its shops and establishments law



◆ **Delhi Government - has launched 'Zero Fatality Corridor' with an aim to curb the number of accidents**

- ✓ A 3km stretch between Bhalswa chowk and Burari chowk on the outer ring road has been chosen as a case study under the project



- ✓ It will be observed for scientific assessment of accidents, road engineering, road-user engagement
- ✓ The initiative is part of the state's action plan to reduce fatalities due to road crashes by 30% by 2020

# NATIONAL

## ◆ **The Cinematograph Amendment Bill, 2019 was approved by the Union cabinet - to amend to the Cinematograph Act, 1952**

- ✓ The amendment was proposed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- ✓ The Bill aims to tackle Films piracy by including the penal provisions for unauthorized camcording and duplication of films
- ✓ The bill proposes two major amendments-
  - ✓ Insertion of new Section 6AA in the Act for prohibition of unauthorised recording
  - ✓ Amendment in Section 7 to introduce penal provisions for violating provisions of section 6AA
- ✓ The penalty includes an imprisonment for a term which may extend to 3 years or with fine which may extend to 10 lakh rupees or with both
- ✓ Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an announcement at the inaugural function of the National Museum of Indian Cinema at Mumbai on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to tackle the menace of camcording and piracy

## ◆ **The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi - has approved the introduction of National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2019**

- ✓ The objective of the bill is to confer the status of Institutions of National Importance to 2 institutes –
  - ✓ National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) at Kundli, Haryana
  - ✓ Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT) at Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu
- ✓ The proposed status would provide functional autonomy to these institutes to design and develop their own courses and undertake research activities in their academic pursuits, so that they become world class institutes
- ✓ The institutes would also implement the reservation policy of the Government to reach various stakeholders

## ◆ **The Union Cabinet - has given its approval to move official amendments to the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018, pursuant to the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF)**

- ✓ The Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018 was first introduced in Parliament on 18th July, 2018
- ✓ It was then referred to the SCF, which submitted its Seventieth Report on the said Bill to Parliament on 3rd January, 2019

- ✓ The proposed amendments will further strengthen the Bill in its objective to effectively tackle the menace of illicit deposit taking activities in the country, and prevent such schemes from duping poor and gullible people of their hard earned savings.
- ✓ The Bill creates three different types of offences namely –
  - ✓ Running of Unregulated Deposit Schemes
  - ✓ Fraudulent default in Regulated Deposit Schemes
  - ✓ Wrongful inducement in relation to Unregulated Deposit Schemes
- ✓ In case of default, the Bill provides for attachment of properties / assets by the Competent Authority, and subsequent realization of assets for repayment to depositors
- ✓ The Bill enables creation of an online central database, for collection and sharing of information on deposit-taking activities in the country
- ✓ The Bill provides for severe punishment and heavy pecuniary fines to act as deterrent

◆ **The Union Cabinet - has approved the proposal for establishment of 'Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog' for Conservation protection and development of cows and their progeny**

- ✓ The Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog will work in collaboration with Veterinary, Animal Sciences or Agriculture University or departments or organizations of the Central/State Government engaged in the task of research in the field of breeding and rearing of cow, organic manure, biogas etc



- ✓ The new agency will work towards conservation, protection and development of cattle population in the country including development and conservation of indigenous breeds.
- ✓ It is in pursuance of the announcement of setting up of the Aayog in the Union Budget 2019-20

◆ **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) – approves "Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development" scheme of Prasar Bharti**

- ✓ As per the scheme, Rs.1054.52 crore will be provided to Prasar Bharti for 3 years from 2017-18 to 2019-20
- ✓ Out of Rs. 1054.52 Crore, an amount of Rs. 435.04 Crore is approved for the continuing schemes of All India Radio and an amount of Rs 619.48 Crore is approved for the schemes of Doordarshan.
- ✓ For All India Radio, the Scheme provides for FM expansion at 206 places, digitalisation of studios at 127 places are envisaged



- ✓ Besides, 10 KW FM transmitters would be set up along Indo-Nepal Border and in J&K Border, to improve the Radio and TV coverage along the border areas
- ✓ CCEA also approved the setting up of High Definition Television (HDTV) transmitters at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata
- ✓ It had approved the launch of DD ArunPrabha Channel from Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh to fulfil the aspirations of people of North East Region

◆ **The Union Cabinet - has approved the proposal for Abolition of Institution of Income-Tax Ombudsman and Indirect Tax Ombudsman**

- ✓ The Institution of Income-Tax Ombudsman was created in the year 2003 to deal with public grievances related to settlement of complaints relating to Income Tax
- ✓ However, it failed to achieve its objectives, as the tax payers started preferring alternate methods of grievance redressal mechanisms like CPGRAMS (Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System), Aaykar Seva Kendras etc
- ✓ Further, it was also decided in 2011 to close vacant offices of Indirect Tax Ombudsman.

◆ **The Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen - launched the 'Darwaza Band -Part 2' campaign on February 6**



- ✓ The campaign focuses on sustaining the open defecation free status of villages across the country
- ✓ The campaign, produced by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, was launched in Mumbai in the presence of actor, Amitabh Bachchan
- ✓ The campaign has been supported by the World Bank
- ✓ The national sanitation coverage is now in excess of 98%, compared to 39% in 2014.
- ✓ Amitabh Bachchan had earlier supported the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen during the first phase of the Darwaza Band campaign launched in 2017
- ✓ Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014

◆ **The Government - has mandated that all mobile phones sold in India will come with a dedicated panic button to be used in distress by all, including females**

- ✓ The Ministry of Home Affairs is implementing a project namely, Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) under Nirbhaya Fund scheme
- ✓ The project intends to provide a single number 112-based emergency support services, which could be accessed through panic button in mobile phone

- ✓ The project has been devised in coordination with the Ministry of Women & Child Development under Nirbhaya Fund scheme
- ✓ As on date, ERSS has commenced in the States of Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland in November & December, 2018 respectively.
- ✓ The Department of Telecommunications has issued a Gazette notification for inclusion of panic button in all new mobile phones handsets with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017, which was subsequently extended to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017

◆ **The government - to conduct a survey of all agricultural households in the country - to assess the plight of farmers for the current crop year (July 2018 –June 2019)**

- ✓ The survey called the 'Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households' will be conducted during the 77th round of the National Sample Survey in the current calendar year
- ✓ It would mainly focus on assessing the income, expenditure and indebtedness of the agricultural households among other issues
- ✓ The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) has been chosen as the nodal agency for the survey, which was last conducted by the agency for the crop year 2012-13
- ✓ The inter-ministerial committee formed on doubling farmers' income by 2022 has considered the estimates of agriculture households' income obtained from the 70th round of NSS survey data as the base level income

◆ **Air India's First ever Flight Simulator known as 'Boeing 747-200' - was displayed in an exhibition at Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai**



- ✓ It was designed and manufactured by the CAE (Canadian Aviation Electronics), Canada.
- ✓ It was acquired by Air India in 1980
- ✓ The 21 years serviced Simulator is donated to the Aviation Gallery – Hall of Aerospace, Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai for creating awareness about its significance in the field of aviation, among the general public and students in particular

◆ **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) App - has been launched on Google play store - by Indu Bhushan, CEO of PM-JAY on February 6 in New Delhi**

- ✓ It was created by the National Health Authority (NHA)





- ✓ The app offers users easy access to information on the scheme, besides allowing them to check eligibility, find hospitals nearby, and receive help
- ✓ Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, J. P. Nadda – had inaugurated the newly constituted National Health Authority (NHA) - by inaugurating the office of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya (AB PM-JAY)



- ✓ The Minister formally inaugurated the 7th and 9th floors of the Jeevan Bharati (LIC) Building, in Connaught Place, New Delhi as the Office of NHA on February 5
- ✓ The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Jharkhand on September 23
- ✓ It provides annual health cover of Rs 5 Lakh for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation through a network of Empanelled Health Care Providers
- ✓ 28 States and Union Territories are on board currently with the scheme
- ✓ The scheme had already helped 10,80,183 patients get hospitalised and has settled Rs 1,041.3 Crore worth claims, out of which Rs 808.2 Crore has been approved
- ✓ While 60,328 hospitals have applied for empanellment, 14,756 (24.45%) have been empanelled
- ✓ The National Health Agency had been restructured as National Health Authority (NHA)

◆ **India – becomes the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest LPG consumer and importer in the world, following China and surpassing Japan**

- ✓ The import of LPG grew by 12.5% over the past 5 years to 12 million metric tons (13 million tons) in 2018-19

- ✓ The exporters of LPG to India include Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iran
- ✓ The number of active LPG consumers in India has grown at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 15% – from 14.8 crore in 2014-15 to 22.4 crore in 2017-18
- ✓ Increase in population combined with LPG penetration in rural areas has resulted in an average growth of 8.4% in LPG consumption
- ✓ The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas estimates that LPG consumption would grow to 30.3 million tonnes by 2025 and 40.6 million tonnes by 2040
- ✓ The flagship scheme of the government Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) has made a significant contribution towards the penetration of LPG in rural areas
- ✓ The renewed target under the scheme aims to provide LPG connections to 8 crore households before March 31, 2020

## SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- ◆ **The Supreme Court – held that it is mandatory for linking PAN with Aadhaar for the filing of income tax returns – on February 6, 2019**



- ✓ A bench comprising Justices A K Sikri and S Abdul Nazeer said that the court had already decided the matter and upheld Section 139AA of the I-T Act on its September 26 verdict
- ✓ The UID number is also a must for accessing subsidies, as per the observations of the apex court

## INTERNATIONAL

- ◆ **UAE Government – to allow the construction of the “Church of Saint Francis” and ‘Mosque of Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb’ in Abu Dhabi in honour of the two religious leaders**

- ✓ They will serve as beacons to uphold the values of tolerance, moral integrity and human fraternity in the UAE, as per the Government
- ✓ UAE had also granted 55000 square meters of land for the construction of a Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi, the ground breaking ceremony of which was witnessed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi by a live telecast in February 2018

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

### ◆ **2019 Asia LPG Summit – inaugurated in New Delhi on February 5**



- ✓ The 2-day event with the focal theme 'LPG-Energy for life' was unveiled by Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for petroleum and natural gas

### ◆ **'Parmanu Tech 2019' – held in New Delhi on February 6**



- ✓ It is a conference organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) to discuss issues related to Nuclear Energy and Radiation Technologies
- ✓ Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh delivered the keynote address in the conference

## PERSONALITIES

### ◆ **Dr Ankit Bharat, a Meerut-based doctor in US – has become the first thoracic surgeon in US to perform a robot-assisted lung surgical procedure**



- ✓ Dr Ankit is the surgical director of the lung transplant programme at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago
- ✓ He had successfully performed a robot-assisted lung volume reduction surgery in December 2019
- ✓ He had studied medicine from Christian Medical College, Vellore and went to US for further studies in 2003
- ✓ The robot-assisted procedure removes the diseased portions of the lungs, thereby reducing pain and scarring, with less risk of infection and shortened recovery time when compared with the traditional surgery methods

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

## ◆ NASA scientists – have announced that 2018 was the 4<sup>th</sup> warmest year on its record spanning 140 years

- ✓ It had said that the 5 warmest years ever recorded were the last 5 years
- ✓ 18 of the 19 warmest years have occurred since 2001
- ✓ The Earth's temperature in 2018 was more than 1 degree Celsius, or 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit, above the average temperature
- ✓ As per the scientists, an increase of 1.5 degrees or more will produce serious consequences to humanity
- ✓ The warmest year on record was 2016, when the pacific ocean phenomenon known as El Nino occurred to register record-setting temperatures
- ✓ In 2018, the world experienced the opposite phenomenon, a cooling La Nina, with a weak El Nino towards the end of the year
- ✓ 2019 would also end up as probably the second-warmest year on record, as per the prediction of the analysts

## APPOINTMENTS

## ◆ Nila Vikhe Patil, a person of Indian origin – has been re-appointed as the Political advisor to the Swedish Prime Minister's Office

### AHMEDNAGAR TO STOCKHOLM

> Born to Ashok Vikhe Patil and Eva-Lill in Sweden, spent early years in Ahmednagar

> Granddaughter of late MP and sugar baron Balasaheb Vikhe Patil

> Great-granddaughter of Vithalrao Vikhe Patil, founder of Asia's first

co-operative sugar factory

> A finance and accounting major, she joined Green Party at age of 16

> Reappointed to Swedish PM Stefan Lofven's office

> Admires granddad & late Prez Abdul Kalam

“ I love India dearly and I feel very connected....I love pithla, bhakri and varan bhaat – NILA VIKHE PATIL (33)



- ✓ She is the daughter of Ashok, who heads the family's 'Pravara' chain of educational institutions in the family's Ahmednagar district in Maharashtra
- ✓ She had already completed two-year stint after appointed as the Political advisor to PMO in Swedan in 2016



◆ **Pradeep Singh Kharola, Chief of Air India - has been appointed Civil Aviation secretary**



- ✓ He succeeds Rajiv Nayan Choubey who retired on January 31, 2019
- ✓ Rajiv took over as a member in the UPSC after his retirement

◆ **Rahul Jain, former Assistant General Manager at Western Railway – appointed as the new General Manager of ICF, Chennai**



- ✓ He succeeds Sudhanshu Mani, who retired recently
- ✓ Sudhanshu Mani was better known as the architect of India's first engineless, self-propelled long distance "Train 18", which was later named "Vande Bharat Express"

**AWARDS**

◆ **The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind - presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the year 2017 at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on February 06, 2019**



- ✓ The list of the major award winners in the field of music and theatre includes –

## Music

S. No.	Winner	Category
1.	Lalith J Rao	Hindustani Vocal
2.	Umakant Gundecha and Ramakant Gundecha (Gundecha Brothers) (Joint Award)	Hindustani Vocal
3.	Yogesh Samsi	Hindustani Instrumental - Tabla
4.	Rajendra Prasanna	Hindustani Instrumental - Shehnai Flute
5.	M.S.Sheela	Carnatic Vocal
6.	Suma Sudhindra	Carnatic Instrumental – Veena
7.	Tiruvarur Vaidyanathan	Carnatic Instrumental – Mridangam
8.	Shashank Subramanyam	Carnatic Instrumental – Flute

## Dance

S. No.	Winner	Category
1.	Rama Vaidyanathan	Bharatanatyam
2.	Shobha Koser	Kathak
3.	Madambi Subramanian	Kathakali
4.	L.N.Oinam Ongbi Dhoni Devi	Manipuri
5.	Deepika Reddy	Kuchipudi
6.	Sujata Mohapatra	Odissi
7.	Ramkrishna Talukdar	Sattriya
8.	Janmajay Saibabu	Chhau
9.	Aashit Desai	Music for Dance

- ✓ The awards are conferred every year since 1952 by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, which is an autonomous body of the Union Ministry of Culture

◆ **Sanjiv Chadha, SBI India's UK Chief - has been honoured with the 'Freedom of the City of London' by city of London Corporation**



- ✓ He was nominated for the honour by Lord Mayor of London, Peter Estlin and Sheriff, Vincent Keaveny
- ✓ Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was the previous Indian recipient of this award and other recipient includes acclaimed author JK Rowling

## SPORTS

◆ **Smriti Mandhana, India's opening batswoman – scored the fastest fifty for India in Women's T20Is**



- ✓ She hit a half century in 24 balls in the first T20 match against New Zealand in Wellington
- ✓ She is currently ranked at 6<sup>th</sup> place in the list of fastest fifty scorers internationally
- ✓ New Zealand's Sophie Devine leads the record of the quickest half century in women's T20Is
- ✓ Sophie had scored the half century in just 18 balls against India in 2005

