

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JAN 25, 2020**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **The Governments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala - plan to conduct a joint study of the archaeological sites at Muziris near Kodungallur, Kerala, and Keeladi in Sivaganga district.**



- ✓ The artefacts unearthed in Keeladi can also be compared with the artefacts found in Muziris to throw more information on the Sangam era and the life of the Tamil people.
- ✓ The archaeologists involved in the excavation of Muziris visit Keeladi quite frequently and vice versa for a long time, to understand and relate the artefacts excavated in both the heritage sites
- ✓ The fifth phase of excavation was completed at Keeladi and the preliminary study for starting the sixth phase is being conducted currently.

### **STATES**

- **The Chhattisgarh government - has decided to stop the monthly pension scheme for those jailed under MISA during Emergency**
- ✓ The money set aside for the scheme by the previous BJP government will now be used for employment schemes.

- ✓ Chhattisgarh has about 300 such beneficiaries, who have undergone jail term.
- ✓ They are given ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 a month depending on the period of spending in jail between 1975 and 1977.
- ✓ Earlier, the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh, too, had scrapped MISA pensions in January 2019 after it came to power, but a high court has since ordered the pension restored.

➤ **India's first e-waste clinic – was opened in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**



- ✓ This clinic will segregate and process e-waste from household and commercial units.
- ✓ The clinic will process all types of e-Waste materials like computers, mobile, chargers, etc.
- ✓ The e-waste clinic is being started on the basis of a three-month pilot project.
- ✓ If this project is successful, such e-waste clinics will be established at other places in the country.
- ✓ The e-waste clinic has been prepared in a junk low floor bus.
- ✓ The bus is decorated with e-waste material from outside and inside
- ✓ The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) provide the lead technical support to the clinic.
- ✓ The clinic is planning to run a campaign 'junk to jugaad' for those e-waste materials which will not be possible to process.

## NATIONAL

➤ **The Ministry of Women and Child Development – announced on January 24 that it would set up 10 Chairs across different universities**

- ✓ These chairs would be named after prominent women administrators, artists, scientists and literatures to motivate women to pursue higher education and excel in their chosen fields.
- ✓ A Chair in the field of administration will be named after late Ahilyabai Holkar, the Malwa queen known as a proficient ruler and an eminent politician.
- ✓ Renowned carnatic singer late M.S. Subbulakshmi will have a Chair named after her in the field of performing arts
- ✓ Activist, reformist and educator late Hansa Mehta will have a Chair in the field of education reforms.



- ✓ The other fields for which Chairs will be established include literature, medicine and health, forest or wildlife conservation, science, maths, poetry mysticism and freedom fighter.
  - ✓ According to the proposal, each Chair will be established at a budget of ₹50 lakh for a period of 5 years to begin with.
  - ✓ The Chairs will be engaged in various academic activities including research, strengthening the role of university in public policy making and designing and executing short-term capacity-building programmes for teachers in higher education.
- **Starting from February 2, a Schengen visa – can be applied for a trip to Europe up to six months in advance of your proposed travel date**
- ✓ At present, a Schengen visa can be applied a maximum of three months before.
  - ✓ The travellers with a “positive history” can also get visas with validities of one to five years, against the usual Schengen visas which are for very limited periods
  - ✓ The visa cost, however, will increase from €60 to €80, or ₹4,720 to ₹6,293 at the current exchange rate of ₹78.7.
  - ✓ The fee for children in the age group of 6 to 12 will also increase from €35 to €40, or ₹2,753 to ₹3,146
  - ✓ The changes come after the EU council adopted amendments to the Schengen visa code in June 2019
  - ✓ The new rules will provide faster and clearer procedures for legitimate travellers
  - ✓ A Schengen visa is needed for 26 European countries, including Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Switzerland and Spain.

## DEFENCE

- **India - tested its nuclear capable K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) for the second time in six days on January 24**



- ✓ The missile test, similar to the one conducted on January 19, was also undertaken from an undersea platform in the shape of a submersible pontoon off the coast of Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The solid-fuelled K-4 missile, designed to have a strike range of 3,500km, is being developed by DRDO to equip the country's nuclear-powered submarines like INS Arihant and its under-development sister vessels.
- ✓ INS Arihant is currently equipped with the much shorter K-15 missiles with a 750 km range.
- ✓ It became fully operational in November 2018 to complete India's nuclear triad
- ✓ India also has the land-based Agni missiles, with the over 5,000-km Agni-V inter-continental ballistic missile now in the process of being inducted

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Union Minister Arjun Munda - has been elected as the new President of the Archery Association of India (AAI).**



- ✓ He will now serve a full term of four years
- ✓ The election was conducted in the presence of 3 observers, one each from World Archery, Sports Ministry and the Indian Olympic Association.
- ✓ Overall, 26 states participated in the elections among AAI's 31 state associations
- ✓ Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jammu and Kashmir did not participate in the elections

- ✓ Arjun Munda is a three-time Chief Minister of Jharkhand.
- ✓ AAI's executive committee will comprise President, Secretary General, Senior Vice-President, 8 Vice Presidents, 7 Joint Secretaries and one treasurer.
- ✓ Due to factionalism, AAI was suspended by the World Archery in August 2019 for not adhering to its guidelines.
- ✓ Due to AAI's suspension, Indian archers cannot compete under the Indian flag in international sporting events.

## AWARDS

- **Deepika Padukone - was conferred with the Crystal Award 2020 at the 26th annual Crystal Award ceremony during the World Economic Forum's opening session held recently**



- ✓ The Indian actress was awarded for being exemplary in raising mental health awareness and also for her foundation 'Live Love Laugh'.
- ✓ The winners of Crystal Awards 2020 include Deepika Padukone, artist Theaster Gates, choreographer Jin Xing and artist Lynette Wallworth
- ✓ Deepika was feted with the award for raising mental health awareness by going public with her own experience of tackling depression and anxiety.
- ✓ She was diagnosed with clinical depression in 2014 and sought professional help to aid her recovery.
- ✓ She founded the 'Live Love Laugh' Foundation in June 2015 to assist and give hope to every person experiencing stress, anxiety and depression.
- ✓ The Crystal Awards are conferred to honour the everlasting contributions to society by exceptional artists

## SPORTS

- **Chinese Grandmaster Ju Wenjun - defeated Russia's Aleksandra Goryachkina in tiebreaks 2.5-1.5 to retain her women's world title in Vladivostok, Russia on January 24**



- ✓ The keenly-fought clash went into tiebreaks after Aleksandra won the 12th and final regulation match that left both on 6 points each
- ✓ The first two games in the tiebreaker were draws.

- **S. Shrikrishna (PSPB) - retained the National under-21 billiards championship at the Manisha-Vascon National billiards and snooker championship**



- ✓ He won all his matches in the top 4 round robin league.

## **NATIONAL DAY**

- **National Voters' Day – January 25**

- ✓ The celebration of the day aims to create awareness about voting among the youths of the country
- ✓ Theme 2020 - 'Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy'.



- ✓ National Voters' Day was observed for the first time on January 25, 2011
- ✓ It was the 61st Foundation Day of the Election Commission
- ✓ The Election Commission of India was established on January 25, 1950
- ✓ The main role of the Election Commission is to identify all eligible voters who have turned 18 on January 1 every year in all polling booth areas across the country.
- ✓ It provides an identity card to the voter, which is also called the voter identity card of the elector.
- ✓ The Election Commission of India is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for conducting Union and State elections in India along with the posts of President and Vice-President in the country.

- **International Education Day – January 24**



- ✓ The observance of the day highlights the role of education in peace and development.
- ✓ The United Nations passed a resolution on December 3, 2018, and declared January 24 as International Education Day.
- ✓ This year, the second International day of education was observed across the world
- ✓ In India, National Education Day is observed on November 11 every year.

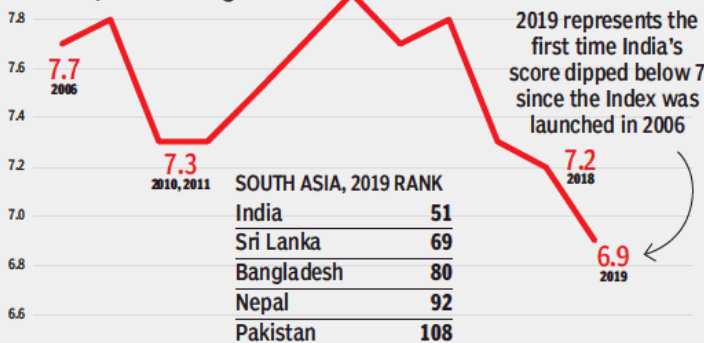
# GLOBAL DEMOCRACY INDEX – A REPORT

## WHY 2019 WAS A BAD YEAR FOR DEMOCRACY

India dropped 10 places in the 2019 global Democracy Index, compiled by Economist Intelligence Unit. While there was on the whole a decline in democracy globally in 2019, nearly half the world's people live in some form of democracy. Civil liberties faced increasing pressure last year but political participation improved with more people willing to take to the streets against faulty government policies



### In India, a declining trend



### Globally, a 10-year low

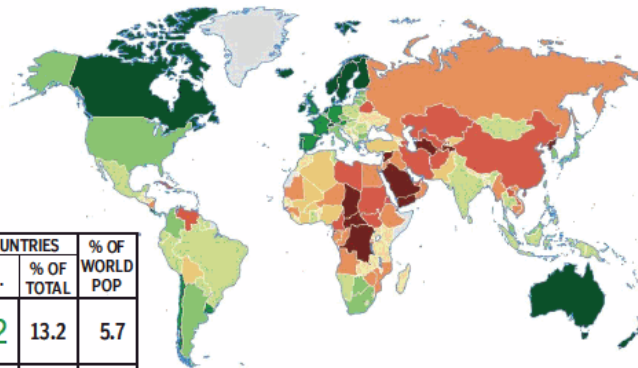
**5.44** The average global score for democracy in the 2019 Index. The fall from 5.48 in 2018 (on a scale of 0-10) marks the **worst score** since the index was launched in 2006

- The decline in the score was due to sharp slides in **Latin America** and **Sub-Saharan Africa**, as also in a lesser way in the Middle East and North Africa region
- **Thailand** registered the biggest improvement in score, and **China** the greatest decline

### 48.4% of world's people live in some kind of democracy

But only 5.7% reside in a "full democracy", down from 8.9% in 2015 as a result of the US being demoted from a "full democracy" to a "flawed democracy" in 2016. More than one-third of the world's population live under authoritarian rule, with a large share being in China

**76** of 167  
Or 45.5%  
of the countries analysed were described as democracies



TYPE OF DEMOCRACY	COUNTRIES		% OF WORLD POP
	NO.	% OF TOTAL	
Full democracy	22	13.2	5.7
Flawed democracy	54	32.3	42.7
Hybrid regime	37	22.2	16.0
Authoritarian regime	54	32.3	35.6

Source: EIU Democracy Index 2019

**22** Number of "full democracies" in 2019, up from 20 in 2018. The number of "flawed democracies" fell by one to 54 in 2019

**54** Number of "authoritarian regimes", up from 52 in 2018. The rest 37 were "hybrid regimes", down from 39 in 2018

### TOP 10

- Norway
- Iceland
- Sweden
- New Zealand
- Finland
- Ireland
- Denmark
- Canada
- Australia
- Switzerland

Norway top-scored with 9.87 (out of 10), Switzerland rounded off the top 10 with 9.01. Denmark and Canada tied for 7th with 9.22

### BOTTOM 10

- North Korea
- Congo DR
- Central African Rep
- Syria
- Chad
- Turkmenistan
- Equatorial Guinea
- Tajikistan
- Saudi Arabia
- Yemen

North Korea brought up the rear (Rank No. 167) in the category of authoritarian regimes with a score of 1.08, with Yemen sitting nine places below it (No. 158, score 1.95) in the list of 10 worst countries

