

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 12, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Department of Health – signs MoU with 3 private doctors – to offer complex surgeries free-of-cost at Government hospitals**
 - ✓ The Government signed the tie-up with Paediatric cardiologist Dr Neville Solomon and interventional cardiologist Dr AB Gopalmurugan, who heads the Heart Team India
 - ✓ The concept originated five years ago when Liver transplant surgeon Dr Mohammed Rela along with his team started performing liver transplant surgeries at Stanley hospital free-of-cost
 - ✓ Dr Neville Solomon and Dr AB Gopalmurugan were already assisting the Government in complex surgeries at the Government Multi-Speciality hospital in Omandurar
- ◆ **Dr G Viswanathan, Founder and chancellor of Vellore Institute of Technology – has been bestowed with the Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar – Lifetime Achievement award – for teaching, research and institution building**



- ✓ The award ceremony took place at the 3rd Global National Teachers' Congress – held at MIT World Peace University, Pune
- ✓ The event was supported by the Government of Maharashtra, AICTE and UNESCO chair for Human rights
- ✓ National Teachers' Congress was instituted in 2016 to inspire teaching community across various streams
- ✓ The Theme of the event this year – 'Leap-Frogging to Future Ready Higher Education'

◆ **Tamil Nadu's Balakumar Nithin – clinched the 100m Gold at the Khelo India Youth Games in Balewadi, Pune**

- ✓ He became the fastest U-21 athlete in the country by clocking 10.76 seconds to top the podium
- ✓ Delhi's Nisar Ahmed clocked 10.96 seconds to win the U-17 boys 100m dash

NATIONAL

◆ **A Panel set up by the Election Commission under Umesh Sinha, Deputy election commissioner – suggested imposing the 'Campaign Silence Period' on print, electronic media and others – at 48 hours before voting and latest within 3 hours of the EC issuing any such direction**



- ✓ During this 'silence period', the star campaigners should avoid addressing press conferences or giving interviews on election issues
- ✓ For imposing such restriction, the panel suggested the amending of Section 126 (clause 1) of the Representation of People Act
- ✓ The panel had also suggested changes in the model code of conduct to ensure that parties release their manifesto atleast 72 hours before the start of polling
- ✓ To monitor and take quick action in case of violation, the EC was advised to appoint an officer to liaise with the intermediaries apart from opening a special grievance redressal channel with a dedicated team during the election period

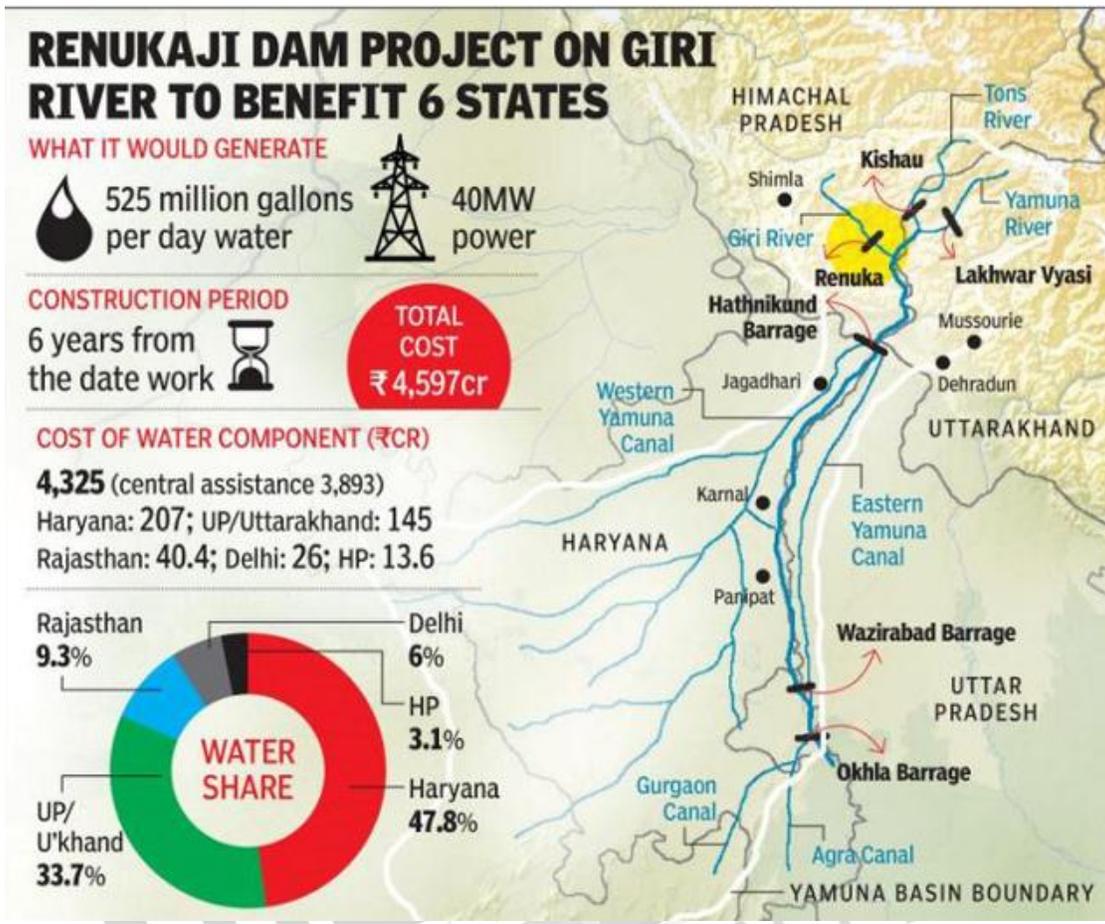
◆ **Union Government – introduces a bill to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950**

- ✓ The bill seeks to grant Scheduled Tribe status to various communities in the states of Assam and Karnataka

◆ **Six states, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh – signs Agreement for the construction of Renukaji Dam Multi-Purpose Project**



- ✓ The 148-m high rock-filled storage dam is being planned on the Giri river, which is a tributary of the Yamuna, in Himachal Pradesh



✓ The centre bears 90% of the cost of the irrigation/drinking water components

◆ **Union Environment Minister, Harsh Vardhan – launched ‘National Clean Air Programme’ that aims to tackle the challenge of pollution in the country**



- ✓ It is a 5-year action plan with a tentative target of 20-30% reduction in concentrations of PM10 and PM2.5 by 2024, with 2017 as the base year
- ✓ The plan seeks to target 102 worst-affected cities across 23 states and Union territories
- ✓ The centre plans to upgrade the air quality monitoring network across India under the programme

◆ **Airports Authority of India – announces Amritsar, Bagdogra and Patna as the Top 3 ‘Fastest’ Growing airports in the country**

- ✓ During the year 2018, Amritsar logged the highest percentage growth with a 48.1% increase followed by Bagdogra and Patna at 48% and 47.3% respectively
- ✓ The average growth rate in the top 10 airports is above 23% which was much more than the 6% and 4% growth recorded by India’s busiest, Delhi and Mumbai airports

- ◆ **The ruins of Hampi in Ballari district – has been ranked 2nd among the ‘Must-see global destinations’ as per New York Times list of ‘52 Places To Go in 2019’**



- ✓ The city of Hampi had its origin to the Vijayanagar empire, during which it thrived as one of the richest towns during the 16th century
- ✓ Puerto Rico, a Caribbean island and unincorporated US territory – topped the list

INTERNATIONAL

- ◆ **Guatemala – unilaterally terminates the ‘International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala’**



- ✓ The Commission is supposed to exist till 3rd September 2019, as per the agreement with the United Nations
- ✓ The termination follows the decision of President, Jimmy Morales insisting that the commission violates the country’s security, public order, governance, respect for human rights and above all the sovereignty of the state of Guatemala
- ✓ However, the Guatemala constitutional court had suspended the president’s decision
- ✓ The commission was set up by the United Nations to examine and investigate the serious crimes in Guatemala

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **ISRO – names R Hutton from Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, who was in-charge of the PSLV light lift-vehicle programme – as the Project director of Ganganyaan mission to send 3 Indians to space by December 2021**

- ✓ A new Human Space Flight Centre and a dedicated team of 800-900 scientists for the mission was unveiled by the Director of ISRO, K Sivan
- ✓ It had also selected Unnikrishnan Nair, senior space scientist from Vikram sarabhai space centre to be the Director of human spaceflight centre (HSC)

- ✓ Dr. Nair has already been involved in this work as the Director, Human Space Flight Project
- ✓ ISRO is currently planning to launch the HSC in Bengaluru, although the land is yet to be finalized
- ✓ The HSC would also be responsible for setting up India's future 'Astronaut training facility', which was likely to be located near Kempegowda International airport on the outskirts of Bengaluru city
- ✓ The facility is likely to be named 'Astronaut Training and Biomedical Engineering Centre' built at around 40-50 acres, resembling the similar one in Russia
- ✓ **The nodal Human Space Programme Office set up six months back under V.R.Lalithambika would continue to coordinate mission affairs from its Bengaluru headquarters**
- ✓ ISRO's own Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, which produces around 100 space engineers each year, will be a primary source of talent of the mission



- ✓ The Director of ISRO, K Sivan – had also announced that the launch of Chanrayaan-2 will not take place before April-end

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ National Youth Day – January 12

- ✓ The day marks the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda
- ✓ The Government of India declared the observance of the day in 1984 and it is celebrated across the nation since 1985

NATIONAL YOUTH DAY (12th January)

Take risks in your life..
 If you win; you may lead..
 If you loose; you may guide..
 - Swami Vivekananda



- ✓ On 12 January 2013, Former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh inaugurated the four-year-long celebrations of Swami Vivekananda's 150th birth anniversary
- ✓ Swami Vivekananda, born in 1863 as Narendranath Datta in Calcutta, was one of the greatest Indian philosopher
- ✓ He was a chief disciple of Ramakrishna Paramahansa
- ✓ He was a major force in the revival of Hinduism in India and contributed to the concept of nationalism in colonial India
- ✓ He founded the Ramakrishna Math and the Ramakrishna Mission
- ✓ He is best known for his speech which began with the words - "Sisters and brothers of America ..." in which he introduced Hinduism at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893

