



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 29, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu – won the ‘Best State –Overall’ award under ‘Swasth Bharat Yatra’ (SBY) programme of the FSSAI



- ✓ SBY is the 100-day consumer outreach programme of the Food Safety and Standards authority of India
- ✓ It is a pan-India cyclothon, launched in October 2018 – as part of FSSAI’s Eat Right India initiative
- ✓ Madurai and Sivakasi have been adjudged the best cities in Tamil Nadu under the programme
- ✓ The Yatra was appreciated by the Prime Minister in his Mann Ki Baat address last month
- ✓ It saw the involvement of around 2.5 crore people across various States and UTs

- ✓ It had also led to the creation of 21,000 local 'Eat Right Champions' who would sustain this movement in the future
- ✓ Other Awards under SBY
- ✓ Best States with population above 3 crore - Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra
- ✓ Best States having population less than 3 crore - Punjab, Goa and Delhi
- ✓ Special Award - Meghalaya, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand (for their participation despite their hilly and difficult terrain)
- **Southern Railway – bagged the top spot for cleanliness in the country in the non- premium train category – as per the Train cleanliness survey conducted by IRCTC on 209 important trains of the Indian Railways**
- ✓ It has been ranked first in all the 17 railway zones with a score of 736 out of a total of 1000
- ✓ In the premium category, the North Western Railway division topped
- ✓ Analysis of the trains was carried out in two categories — Premium category including Rajdhani, Shatbdi, Tejas, Gatiman and Duronto trains and non-Premium category including Sampark Kranti, Intercity, Jan Shatabdi etc.,
- ✓ The survey is conducted once a year to periodically monitor the progress of 'Swachh Rail Swachh Bharat' mission, an initiative launched by Indian Railways that works towards cleaner trains and stations
- ✓ A three-part survey including process audit, direct observation and passenger feedback were undertaken
- ✓ Two private companies, IRCLASS Systems and Solutions Pvt. Ltd and IPSOS Research Private Limited, were engaged to conduct the survey on behalf of IRCTC
- **VO Chidambaranar Port (formerly Tuticorin Port) in Thoothukudi - created a new record by handling 59,839 tonnes of coal in a single day on January 28 - at the North Cargo Berth-I from the vessel, M.V. Aqua Knight**
- ✓ It had surpassed the previous single day record of 51,413 MT of coal handled at Berth-9 from the vessel MV Ultra Gujarat on June 14, 2018
- ✓ Earlier, North Cargo Berth-I has handled 48,701 MT of thermal coal in a single day on March 20, 2018

STATES

- **Delhi government - has decided to introduce the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for farmers based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers, headed by Professor M S Swaminathan**
- ✓ The National Commission on Farmers was constituted on November 18, 2004
- ✓ It had made some key recommendations on land reforms, irrigation, credit and insurance, food security, employment and the agriculture productivity

- **Uttarakhand – to develop the country’s 2nd Tulip garden in Pithoragarh district at a cost of Rs 50 crore over 50 hectares of forest land**



- ✓ It will be developed under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme of ONGC
 - ✓ The site was selected under the 13 districts -13 new destinations’ scheme of the state Government to attract more tourists
 - ✓ The 13 districts-13 new destinations scheme intends to develop 13 new destinations based on particular themes in the 13 districts of the state
 - ✓ The country’s first tulip garden is located in Srinagar of Jammu and Kashmir
- **Goa – Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari and CM of Goa, Manohar Parrikar – had inaugurated ‘Atal Setu’, a new cable bridge across river Mandovi in Panaji**



- ✓ The 4-lane, 5.1 kilometer long bridge, built at a cost of Rs 850 crore, weighs 2.5 lakh tonnes, which is equivalent to the weight of a Boeing 570 aircraft
- ✓ It was constructed by Larsen and Toubro with the assistance of Goa Infrastructure Development corporation
- ✓ River Mandovi, also known as Mahadayi or Mhadei river is regarded as the lifeline of Goa

- **Odisha – has launched ‘Jiban Sampark’ project in association with UNICEF India**
- ✓ It was inaugurated by the CM, Naveen Patnaik during the annual tribal fair titled ‘Adivasi Mela’ on the Republic day
- ✓ The projects intends to spread awareness about the development and welfare initiatives of state government among the particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) of the state
- ✓ A separate category of PVTGs was constituted based on the recommendations of the Dhebar Commission in 1975
- ✓ The highest numbers of PVTGs are found in Odisha
- ✓ They are identified by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs based on the recommendations from the state governments or Union territories

- **Kerala Government – launched ‘Pravasi Dividend Pension Scheme’ – for the welfare of NRI Malayalis**
- ✓ Under the scheme, a regular pension would be provided to Non-Resident Keralites on a one-time payment of Rs 5 lakh
- ✓ The state plans to introduce a Toll-free number to provide information on various issues faced by the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) from Kerala
- ✓ It is also designing a portal to provide details of overseas job opportunities and the recruitment process
- ✓ The government had initiated Loka Kerala Sabha (LKS) with the aim of using the resources of NRIs from Kerala for the overall growth and development of the state

- **Jammu & Kashmir Governor, Satya Pal Malik - has given his assent to the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2014, providing reservation to the Pahari community in Government jobs**
- ✓ The community, also known as Pahadi and Parbati, inhabits Himalayan regions of Nepal and India

NATIONAL

- **Ministry of HRD – signs MoU with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - for India’s Participation in Programme for International Student Assessment- PISA 2021**



- ✓ The schools run by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and schools in the UT of Chandigarh would be participating in PISA 2021
- ✓ The question to Indian students will be related to India's perspective only, as per the Minister of HRD Prakash Javdekar
- ✓ The first edition of the triennial PISA testing for 15-year old students was held in 2000
- ✓ It will assess the students in reading, mathematics, science and collaborative problem-solving
- ✓ India first participated in PISA in 2009 with 16000 students from 400 schools across Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu
- ✓ But it performed poorly then, ranked at 72nd position among 74 participating countries
- ✓ Following the poor score, India decided to stay away from PISA in 2012 and 2015
- ✓ India was allowed to participate in the 2018 edition as per the recommendations of a committee set up by KVS, but it missed the application deadline for the cycle
- **The 3rd Stock Taking Conference on Tiger Conservation - is being held at New Delhi**
 - ✓ It is organized by the Global Tiger Forum – in collaboration with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (Government of India), WWF, Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT) and Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)
 - ✓ To address the issues affecting the Tiger survival, several nations have come together on a common platform within the framework of the Global Tiger Initiative (GTI) at St. Petersburg, Russia
 - ✓ Through the GTI, a Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP) has been developed with the shared goal of doubling the number of wild tigers globally by 2022
 - ✓ This is the second stock-taking conference to be held in India

- **IITS – are likely to implement the 10% quota for economically weaker sections in the General quota in a ‘phased manner’**
- ✓ They are planning to start with 5% quota in the 2019-20 academic session
- ✓ But, IIMs are likely to seek exemption from implementing the quota this year
- **The word ‘Nari shakti’ (Female Power) – is announced as the ‘Hindi Word of the Year 2018’ by the Oxford dictionaries in the Jaipur Literary Festival**



- ✓ The Word ‘Nari Shakti’ was derived from Sanskrit language, indicating women have all the powers and spirit to take control of their own lives
- ✓ In 2017, Oxford Dictionaries had chosen 'Aadhaar' as the first ‘Hindi word of the year’
- **4th edition of Bharat Parv – held in Red Fort as part of the Republic Day celebrations**
- ✓ It is hosted by the Ministry of Tourism, between January 26 and 31, in collaboration with other ministries



- ✓ The aim of the event is to promote the idea of ‘Ek Bharat, shreshtha Bharat’, and promote the country’s cultural diversity
- ✓ The first edition was held in 2016

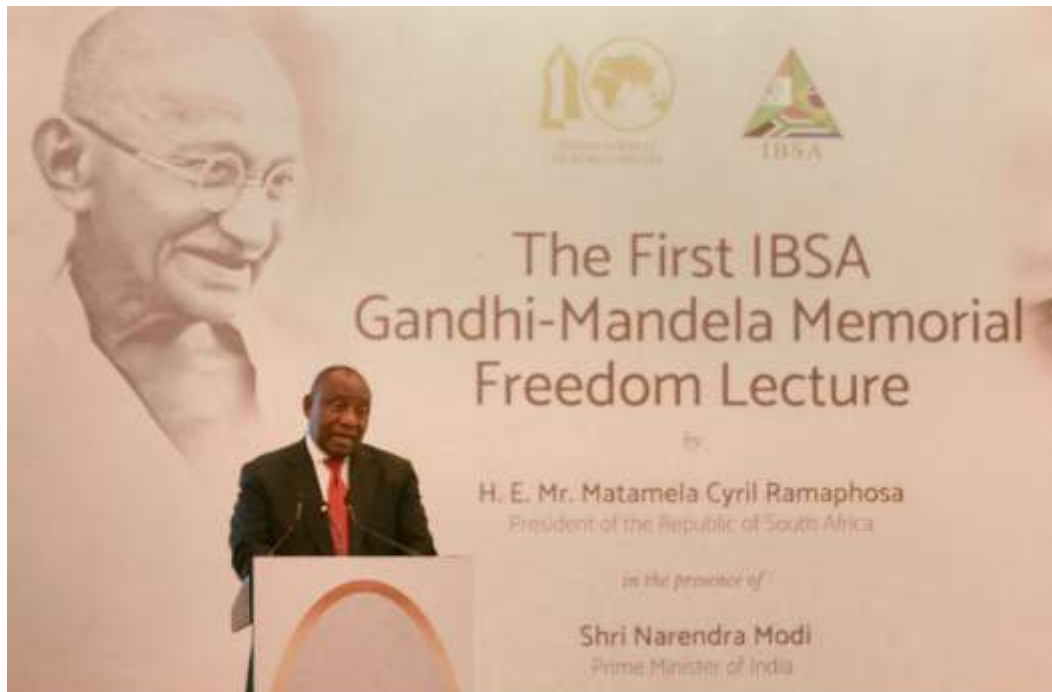
- **The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) - has issued new guidelines for Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)**



- ✓ The new norms aim to re-energize and reinvigorate the JSSs in the country
 - ✓ Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) were established to provide vocational training to non-literate and school dropouts by identifying the marketable skills in them
 - ✓ The ministry had also launched a new web portal 'www.jss.gov.in' to provide information on its developments
- **Union Cabinet – approves the MoU between India and Kuwait on the recruitment of domestic workers**
 - ✓ The MoU provides for the increased safeguards for the Indian domestic workers, including female workers, working in Kuwait
 - ✓ It is valid for a period of 5 years, subject to further renewal
 - ✓ Currently, around 3 lakh Indian workers, including 90,000 female workers, are deployed in Kuwait
- **2nd edition of Pariksha Pe charcha 2.0 – held in New Delhi on January 29, 2019**



- ✓ On this occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with several students, parents and teachers from across the country and shared his personal experiences
- ✓ During the interaction, Indian students from foreign countries like Russia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Nepal also participated
- **South African President, Cyril Ramaphosa - delivered the first 'IBSA Gandhi-Mandela Memorial Freedom Lecture' in New Delhi**



- ✓ The lecture was instituted by the Indian Council of World Affairs
- ✓ IBSA is an international tripartite grouping for promoting international cooperation among India, Brazil and South Africa
- ✓ The Strategic Partnership between India and South Africa, called the Red Fort Declaration, was signed in March 1997 by the then South African President, Nelson Mandela and former PM, H.D. Deve Gowda
- **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) – to launch a new train 'Samantha Express' on February 14 from Nagpur**
- ✓ The Samantha Express will cover prominent places associated with Gautam Buddha and Dr B R Ambedkar, Chief architect of the Constitution
- ✓ The train will cover Chaityabhoomi (Mumbai), Mhow (Indore), Bodhgaya (Gaya), Sarnath (Varanasi), Lumbini (Nautanwa), Kushinagar (Gorakhpur) and Deekshabhoomi (Nagpur)



- ✓ The duration of this tour will be of 10 nights and 11 days with the package cost of Rs. 10,395 per person for standard category and Rs. 12,705 per person for comfort category
- ✓ Significance of the places
 - ✓ Chaityabhoomi (Mumbai) - Dr Ambedkar was cremated here after his death on 6 December 1956 and it hosts a memorial for Dr Ambedkar
 - ✓ Mhow (Indore) - Dr Ambedkar was born at Mhow
 - ✓ Bodhgaya (Gaya) - Buddha is said to have obtained Enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree here
 - ✓ Sarnath (Varanasi) - Gautama Buddha first taught the Dharma here
 - ✓ Lumbini (Nautanwa) - Gautama Buddha was born here
 - ✓ Kushinagar (Gorakhpur) - Gautama Buddha attained Parinirvana after his death here
 - ✓ Deekshabhoomi (Nagpur) - Dr Ambedkar converted to Buddhism here, two months prior to his demise

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **The Supreme Court - has refused to stay the amendments to Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018 on January 24**
- ✓ A bench headed by Justice A K Sikri said that all the petitions challenging the new amendments will be taken together later

- ✓ The bench referred the matter to the Chief Justice for reconstitution of a bench in which Justice U U Lalit was a part of
- ✓ Justice Lalit was part of a bench which had passed the March 20, 2018 verdict
- ✓ It had held that public servants cannot be arrested immediately after a complaint is filed against them under the law
- ✓ Proposed mechanism by the SC to safeguard SC/STs
- ✓ Provision of anticipatory bail
- ✓ Approval of Senior Superintendent of Police to arrest those accused under this act
- ✓ Deputy Superintendent of Police to conduct a preliminary enquiry to find out whether there is a prima facie case under the Act

INTERNATIONAL

- **The British government - has announced a research project, 'South Asian Nitrogen Hub' to study nitrogen pollution in India and South Asia**



- ✓ The project, led by UK's Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, will partner with 50 organisations from the UK and South Asia
- ✓ Countries involved in the Project - India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives
- ✓ Indian Institutions participating in the project
 - ✓ National Institute of Oceanography
 - ✓ Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University
 - ✓ Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology
 - ✓ Jawaharlal Nehru University
 - ✓ Aligarh Muslim University
 - ✓ National Physical Laboratory
 - ✓ TERI University

APPOINTMENTS

- **Dr Poonam Khetrupal Singh** - has been appointed Regional Director for World Health Organization South-East Asia, for a second five-year term beginning February 1



- ✓ She is the first woman to be appointed for the prestigious position

AWARDS

- The novel 'No Presents Please' wins DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2018



- ✓ It is a kannada novel written by Jayant Kaikini and its English version was translated by Tejaswini Niranjana

- ✓ The award was presented to both the authors by eminent writer, Ruskin Bond
- ✓ The novel illustrates life in Mumbai with the city being the main protagonist
- ✓ The DSC Prize for South Asian Literature was instituted in the year 2010 for an original full-length or translated English novel

SPORTS

- **Mohammed Shami, Indian fast bowler - has become the fastest Indian to claim 100 wickets in One-day Internationals**



- ✓ He had achieved this feat in his 56th ODI game, when he dismissed New Zealand opener Martin Guptill, during the first one-dayer against New Zealand at Napier
- ✓ Shami had overtaken the record held by Irfan Pathan, who had reached 100 wickets in 59 ODIs, against Pakistan in Abu Dhabi in 2006
- ✓ Mohammed Shami made his ODI debut against Pakistan in January 2013 and Test debut against West Indies in November 2013
- ✓ Rashid Khan of Afghanistan holds the world record for claiming 100 wickets in only 44 international games

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Data protection day – January 28**



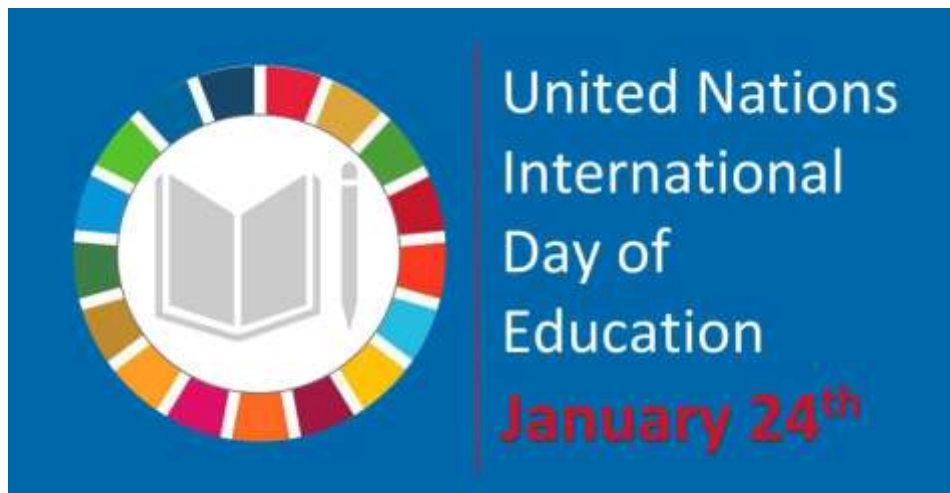
- ✓ The day intends to raise awareness about the privacy and data protection issues in the digital world
- ✓ It has been observed since 2007, when Council of Europe announced the European Data protection day

➤ **International customs day – January 26**



- ✓ Every year International Customs Day (ICD) is held on January 26 which is the day the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) held its inaugural session in 1953.
- ✓ Slogan for 2019 - “SMART borders for seamless Trade, Travel and Transport”
- ✓ SMART - Secure, Measurable, Automated, Risk Management Based and Technology Driven
- ✓ The CCC adopted the working name, World Customs Organisation (WCO) in 1994, which has 177 custom members

➤ **1st ever International day of education – January 24**



- ✓ The day celebrates the role of quality education in the sustainable development of countries by 2030
- ✓ It is observed as per the resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 3rd 2018

REPORT

➤ **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY –G) and Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) Beneficiaries Report – Released by the Ministry of Rural Development**

- ✓ Since April 2014, the ministry had constructed 1.37 crore rural homes in association with the respective states
- ✓ The break-up of the houses constructed –

Year	Rural Homes Completed (IAY + PMAY-G)
2014-15	11.91
2015-16	18.22
2016-17	32.23
2017-18	44.54
2018-19	30.45 (may reach 65 lakh by March 31, 2019)

- ✓ PMAY-G was launched by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on November 20, 2016
- ✓ Till now, around 66.6 lakh homes are constructed under this scheme

