



# Monthly Updates On **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

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**FEBRUARY 2019**

## **NATIONAL**

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- In Arunachal Pradesh, Defence Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Diffo Bridge (426 m long) over Chipu River in Lower Dibang Valley District in 2019. INS Trikand, a front-line warship of the Indian Navy, participated in a multinational training exercise 'CUTLASSEXPRESS - 19' held from 27 January to 6 February, 2019. The aim of the exercise is to improve law enforcement capacity, promote regional security and progress interoperability between the armed forces of the participating nations for the purpose of interdicting illegal maritime activity in the Western Indian Ocean.
- The State Government of Jammu and Kashmir issued a notification of the creation of Ladakh as the third division in the state in February 2019. Kargil and Leh districts are falling under this division.
- The Ministry of Food Processing has commissioned the first operationalised Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park in Andhra Pradesh for fish and marine products' processing in the state. It was commissioned by the Secretary of Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).
- The Meghalaya Cabinet has decided to rename the Dikkibandi Stadium in Tura town after former Lok Sabha Speaker, Purno A. Sangma. Purno A. Sangma was also the former chief minister of Meghalaya.
- India has improved its ranking from 81 in 2017 to 78 in Global Corruption Index in 2018, released by Transparency International, while its neighbour China lagged far behind.
- The 5.1 km long, four-lane cable-stayed bridge, Atal Setu, a third such bridge to connect the Goa capital, Panaji with North Goa, was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Roads, Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari. It is made over River Mandovi.

### **ECONOMY**

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- Two regional rural banks (RRB) – Pallavan Grama Bank and Pandyan Grama Bank – have been amalgamated into a single bank to form Tamil Nadu Grama Bank, with head office at Salem, Tamil Nadu. Pallavan Grama Bank was sponsored by Indian Bank and Pandyan Grama Bank was sponsored by Indian Overseas Bank, both state-run lenders headquartered in Chennai.

In February 2019, following the attack in Jammu & Kashmir's Pulwama that left 40 CRPF personnel dead, India has withdrawn the MFN (Most Favoured Nation) status that it had granted to Pakistan in 1996.

### **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

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- To increase transparency, information management, data usability and accountability, the Ministry of AYUSH has launched the e-AUSHADHI portal for online licensing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs and related matters in February 2019.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a dedicated 24x7 satellite channel, 'DD Arunprabha' for Arunachal Pradesh in February 2019. It is Doordarshan's second channel for the north-eastern region, DD Northeast being the first one. DD Arunprabha, with its head office at Itanagar, telecasts programmes on the diverse culture of the northeastern states.
- Union Minister for Law and Justice has launched Nyaya Bandhu mobile application. This mobile application is integrated with a Dashboard created to confirm and register the preregistered cases, and to enable the online interface between the beneficiary and the panel lawyer.

### **SPORTS**

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- Japan's Naomi Osaka has won the second Grand Slam title of her career, 'Australian Open 2019' by defeating Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic in the women's singles. She became the first Asian player, male or female, to reach the No. 1 ranking in singles.
- The Asian Hockey Federation has honoured Indian skipper Manpreet Singh with the 2018 Player of the Year award. Manpreet led the Indian team to an unbeaten streak at the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy in Muscat.
- Apurvi Chandela has won the gold medal in the women's 10-metre air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup 2019. She set a new world record by registering a score of 252.9 points in the final.
- India captain Mithali Raj who debuted in 1999 became the first Indian woman cricketer to play 200 One Day Internationals till February 2019. She is also the highest run-getter in ODIs with 6,622 runs at an average of 51.33, including seven hundred.
- Qatar's national football team defeated Japan by 3-1 to win their first-ever Asian Cup title in Football in 2019. Qatar forward Almoez Ali broke the record of most goals in a single Asian Cup after netting his ninth goal. This was the first time that Japan lost in an Asian Cup final.

### **PERSONS IN NEWS**

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- Punit Goenka, the Managing Director and CEO of Zee Entertainment Enterprises (ZEE), has been elected as the new chairman of TV Viewership measurement company, Broadcast Audience Research Council of India (BARC India) in January 2019.
- Senior IRS officer Pramod Chandra Mody has been appointed as the chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in February 2019. He succeeded Sushil Chandra, who has been appointed as Election Commissioner. CBDT is a nodal policy-making body of the Income Tax department.

- Former Vice President Hamid Ansari launched the book written by former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram titled 'Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India'. The book is a collection of essays on the country's atmosphere of fear and how the constitutional values are being threatened.

## PLANS AND POLICIES

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced 'Jiban Sampark' project in partnership with UNICEF India to generate awareness about the development and welfare initiatives of the state government among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups of the state. The Jiban Sampark's focus areas include skill development, empowering communities, cooperation and innovation among the groups of tribal communities.
- PM Kisan Nidhi Yojana, launched in 2019, assures income support of Rs. 6000 per year in three equal installments for farmers owning land less than two hectares. The programme is fully funded by the central government.
- The Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen launched the 'Darwaza Band-Part 2' campaign which focusses 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 and is also supported by the World Bank.
- In PMSYM (Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan), the individual has to contribute a fixed monthly amount till the age of 60 years, while an equal amount is put into the account by the government and, thereafter, from the age of 60 years, he or she will start getting pension of Rs. 3,000 for life time. During the receipt of pension, if the subscriber dies, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension received by the beneficiary as family pension.
- In February 2019, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved launch of Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan with the objective of providing financial and water security to farmers. This scheme aims to add a solar capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

| Awards  | Recipients   | Contribution   |
|---|--|--|
| Dan David Prize-2019  | Sanjay Subrahmanyam  | Past Time Dimension  |
| Global Future of Nature Award'  | Dr. Divya Karnad   | Marine Conservation  |
| Oscar (91 <sup>st</sup> Academy Awards)                                     | Period. End of Sentence<br>Green Book<br><br>Rami Malek (Bohemian Rhapsody)<br>Olivia Colman (The Favourite)<br>Mahershala Ali (Green Book)<br>Regina King (If Beale Street Could Talk)<br>Alfonso Cuarón (Roma)<br>Roma (Spanish) | Documentary Short Subject<br>Best Picture Best Actor<br>Best Actress<br>Best Supporting Actor Best Supporting Actress<br>Best Director<br>Best Foreign Language Film |
| Lifetime Achievement Award by the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television | Deepa Mehta  | Excellence in digital media productions  |
| Football Ratna  | Sunil Chhetri  | Outstanding performance in Football  |