



## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 17, 2019**

### **STATES**

- **Karnataka – to give Kannadigas ‘first priority’ in jobs under Group C and D category in the private sector**
- ✓ The state government has decided to amend the Karnataka Industrial Employment (Standing Orders), Rules, 1961 - to implement the 1983-constituted Sarojini Mahishi Committee’s recommendations granting primacy for the Kannadigas in the private sector jobs
- ✓ Other important recommendations of the Committee
- ✓ 100% reservation for Kannadigas in all state government departments and PSUs
- ✓ 100% reservation for Kannadigas for Group C and D jobs in Central government departments and PSUs
- ✓ At least 80% reservation for Kannadigas for Group B jobs in Central government departments and PSUs
- ✓ 65% reservation for Kannadigas for Group A jobs in Central government departments and PSUs
- ✓ All jobs in the private sector to be reserved for Kannadigas except for senior/skilled positions, unless necessitated

### **NATIONAL**

- **The Centre – had informed that Supreme court that 63 official websites of various union ministries and central government departments have been made ‘disabled-friendly’ and have got Website Quality Certification (WQC)**
- ✓ Another 14 websites are awaiting certification, as per the centre
- ✓ A submission to this effect was made by the additional solicitor-general G Rajagopalan on a PIL seeking the ‘disabled-friendliness’ of all government websites
  
- **India – signs a ‘security protection pact’ with Sweden – to share classified information with each other**



- ✓ The agreement was signed during the visit of the Indian Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to Sweden
- ✓ Sweden has similar agreements with over 30 countries around the world, as well as with the EU and NATO
- **Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest and Climate Change – inaugurated the North Karnataka Agromet Forecasting and Research Centre in Karnataka**



- ✓ It is the country's first agromet forecast centre established at University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) in Dharwad, Karnataka
- ✓ The main objective of the centre is to give accurate weather reports - which would enable the farmers to protect the crops and get good yield
- ✓ These information would be provided through various platforms like WhatsApp, SMS, social networking sites and community radio stations to the farmers

- **India and European Union – to fund 40 million Euros on 7 Research & Innovation projects – to deal with water challenges in the country**



- ✓ Titled 'Horizon 2020', these projects will have an average duration of about 4 years
- ✓ The main areas of the projects are to improve the quality of drinking water, waste water management system and real-time monitoring and control systems
- ✓ It will also deal with Ganga rejuvenation initiative
- ✓ Five IITs of Delhi, Bombay, Guwahati, Bhubaneswar, Roorkee, and CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research (CSIR-NEERI) and TERI will also collaborate in the projects
- ✓ The seven selected projects are - India-H2O, LOTUS, PANI WATER, PAVITR, PAVITRA GANGA, SAEASWATI 2.0 and SPRING

## **CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

- **5<sup>th</sup> International Dam Safety Conference 2019 – concluded in Bhubaneswar, Odisha**



- ✓ The conference was a part of the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) assisted by World Bank
- ✓ The project envisages rehabilitation of 223 dams in 7 States
- **Early ED Asia 2019 – concluded in Jaipur, Rajasthan**



- ✓ The first-of-its-kind conference in India, saw the participation of 6000 eminent early childhood educators, policy-makers, researchers and other stakeholders from India and foreign countries
- ✓ Motto of the event – ‘Our children. Our future’

## DEFENCE

- **Indian Air Force – conducts ‘Vayu Shakti 2019’ drill in Pokhran – demonstrating the capability to hit targets with precision under adverse weather conditions through the autonomous bombing capability over the Thar desert**



- ✓ Around 137 aircrafts, including Sukhoi-30MKI, Mirange-2000, Jaguar, Mig-21 Bison, Mig-27, Mig-29, IL78, Hercules, AN-32 aircraft and Tejas flew from 8 airbases
- ✓ Vayu Shakti is held once in every 3 years

## ECONOMY

- **The Centre – had raised the customs duty on all products imported from Pakistan by 200%**
- ✓ India had withdrawn the ‘most favoured nation’ status, granted in 1996 to Pakistan a day earlier
- ✓ The move is seen as a step to put pressure on Pakistan to act against terrorists, following its support to terrorists involved in Pulwama attack on CRPF jawans on February 14

## APPOINTMENTS

- **India’s Chandramouli Ramanathan - has been appointed by the United Nations - as Controller & Assistant Secretary-General for UN Programme Planning, Budget and Finance in the Department of Management strategy, policy and compliance**
- ✓ He succeeds Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas of Uruguay



- ✓ He has vast experience leading UN’s complex change management initiatives, including implementation of IPSAS (International Public Sector Accounting Standards), and Umoja (the United Nations Enterprise Resource Planning solution)

- ✓ He has been serving as Acting Controller since September 2018, concurrently with his position as Assistant Secretary-General for Enterprise Resource Planning since 2016
- ✓ He previously served as Deputy Controller, Director of Accounts Division and Chief of Service, IT Services Division
- ✓ He also served as Assistant Auditor General, India (1993-1995) and Director of Accounts for the Auditor General of India (1989-1993)

## **AWARDS**

### ➤ **Swachhata Excellence awards 2019**



- ✓ **1<sup>st</sup> Place – Raigarh Municipal Corporation (Chhattisgarh)**
- ✓ **2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Ambikapur Municipal Corporation (Chhattisgarh)**
- ✓ **3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Kumbakonam Municipal Corporation (Tamil Nadu)**
- ✓ All the above cities are 'AMRUT' cities
- ✓ Other Award winners
  - ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> Prize in the category of Million Plus Cities - Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation
  - ✓ Prizes in the 'Statutory Towns' category - Nagar Palika Parishad of Jashpur Nagar (Chhattisgarh), Malappuram Municipality (Kerala), and Nagar Palika Parishad Surajpur (Chhattisgarh)
  - ✓ Consolation prize in the category of Aspirational Districts - Chas Municipal Corporation (Bokaro district of Jharkhand)
- ✓ Overall, 40 awards were distributed to the Area Level Federations (ALFs), City Livelihoods Federations (CLFs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)
- ✓ These Awards were given by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) as part of the Shehri Samridhi Utsav, organized from February 1 to 15, 2019

- ✓ Swachhata Excellence Awards were instituted in 2007 to encourage Area Level Federations (ALFs) of SHGs formed under DAY-NULM
- ✓ Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana -National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MHUPA), Government of India on 23rd September 2013 by replacing Swarna Jayanti Rozgar Yojana

## SPORTS

- **Vidarbha – retains Irani trophy by means of first innings lead - after the match against Rest of India ended in a draw in Nagpur**



- ✓ The defending champions needed to bat the entire final day to retain the title, which they did with ease
  - ✓ It became the third team after Mumbai and Karnataka to defend the Irani Trophy and Ranji Trophy
  - ✓ Vidarbha were unbeaten throughout the 2018-19 Indian domestic cricket season
  - ✓ Akshay Karnewar of Vidarbha was named as Man of the match in the final
- **Saina Nehwal – defeated P V Sindhu in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Yonex Sunrise Senior National Badminton championships held in Guwahati**
  - ✓ With the win, 2012 Olympics bronze medallist Saina had managed to maintain four titles in four appearances
  - ✓ It was Saina's back-to-back win in the Nationals after she won in Nagpur last year
  - ✓ Saina has lost to Sindhu only once in international events at India Open 2017



- ✓ Saina had also defeated 2016 Rio Games silver medallist Sindhu at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games summit clash last year
- ✓ In the Men's singles final, Sourabh Varma defeated Lakshya Sen to win the title
- ✓ This is Sourabh's fifth successive win over Lakshya
- ✓ It was the third title for Sourabh after emerging champion in 2011 (New Delhi) and 2016 (Bengaluru)

