

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 18, 2019

STATES

- **The Jammu and Kashmir administration - to withdraw security cover of 6 separatist leaders, following the Pulwama attack on February 14, 2019**



- ✓ The 6 separatist leaders are Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Abdul Gani Bhat, Bilal Lone, Hashim Qureshi, Fazal Haq Qureshi and Shabir Shah
- ✓ Mirwaiz Umar Farooq is chairman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference
- ✓ Abdul Gani Bhat is a senior leader of the Muslim Conference which is part of the Hurriyat.
- ✓ Bilal Lone represents the 'Peoples Independent Movement' in the Hurriyat Conference.
- ✓ Hashim Qureshi was one of the founding members of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and is now chairman of the Jammu Kashmir Democratic Liberation Party (JKDLP)

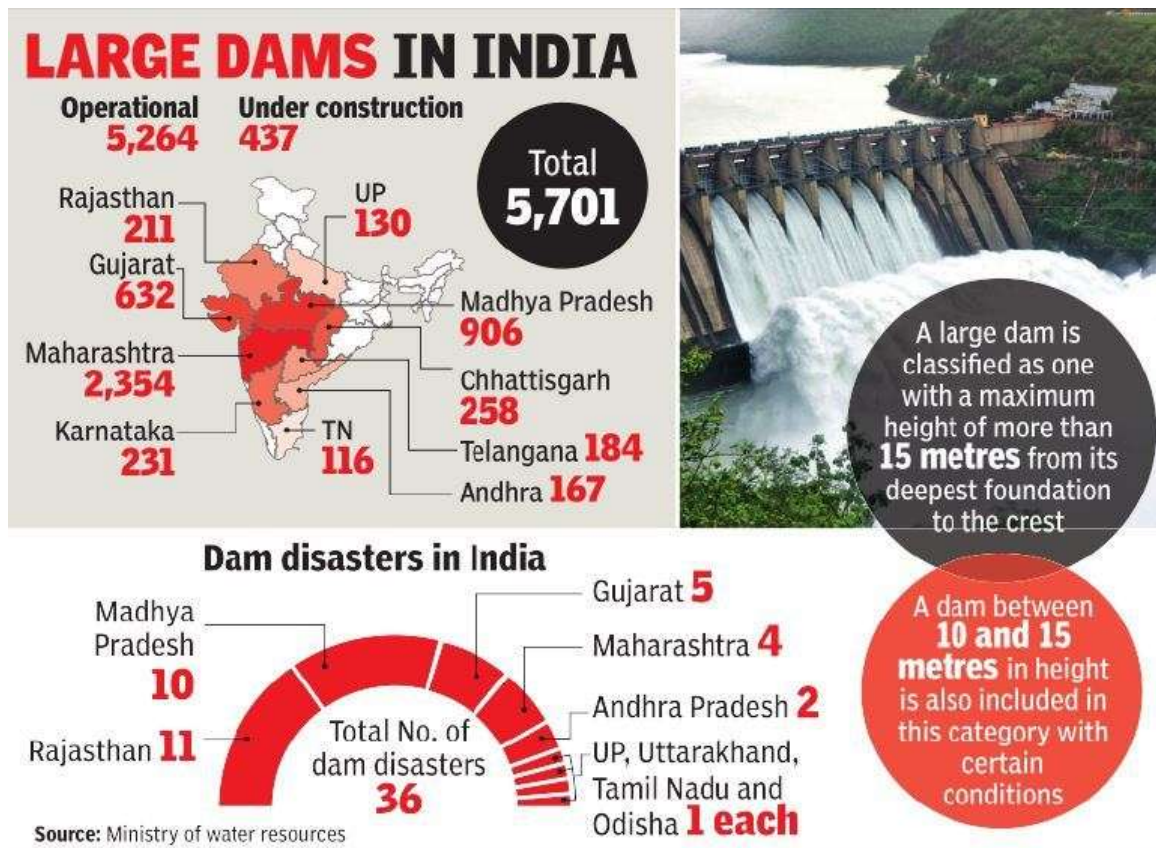
- ✓ Fazal-Haq Qureshi is a senior leader of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC).
- ✓ Shabir Shah is founder and member of the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party.
- **Jharkhand – bans ‘Popular Front of India’ in the state**



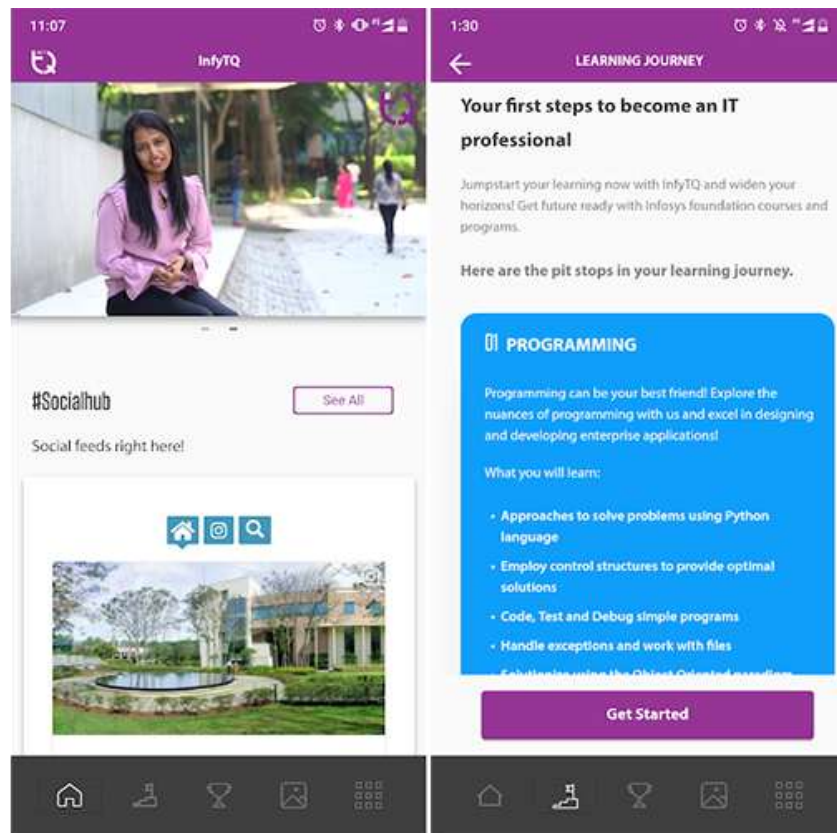
- ✓ The move is aimed at preventing its anti-national tasks and activities and also due to its alleged association with terror outfits like ISIS
- ✓ Earlier in Feb, 2018, PFI was banned by Jharkhand Govt., but few months later, Jharkhand High Court cancelled the state’s decision to ban the PFI
- **The Himachal Pradesh Assembly - passed the Official Language (Amendment) Bill 2019 to make Sanskrit the second official language in the state, replacing Punjabi**
- ✓ Once given assent by the Governor, it will amend the Himachal Pradesh Official language Act, 1975.
- ✓ Before 1966, Himachal Pradesh was an integral part of Punjab, with the areas like Bilaspur, Shimla and Kangra predominantly inhabited by the Punjabis.

NATIONAL

- **World Bank – to provide Rs 11,000 crore to India to improve safety and operational performance of 733 large dams across 18 states, including Tamil Nadu, over the next 10 years**



- ✓ The assistance would be utilized under the Phase II and III of the ongoing Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Programme (DRIP) beginning 2020
- ✓ The government had launched DRIP in 2012, for improving safety and operational standards of 198 large dams in Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Tamil Nadu by June 2020
- ✓ More dams will be covered during Phase-II and III of the DRIP, increasing the coverage to over 700, with the government allocating Rs 11,000 crore
- ✓ The major dams which are to be covered includes Bhakra dam and Pong Dam (Himachal Pradesh), Srisailem (Telangana), Koyna and Jayakwadi (Maharashtra), Matatila, Ramganga and Raj ghat (Uttar Pradesh), Ukai (Gujarat), Rana Pratap Sagar and Mahi (Rajasthan), Hirakud and Rengali (Odisha) and Umlam (Meghalaya)
- **Union Government – issues guidelines for ‘Electric vehicles’ (EVs) charging stations**
 - ✓ It had proposed to establish the charging stations for the EVs at every 25 km
 - ✓ The Government expects that 25% of the road vehicles will be electric by 2030
- **Infosys – launches a new learning app for engineering students ‘InfyTQ’**



- ✓ The app, that can be downloaded free of cost, is designed to provide the students with the necessary technical and professional skills with the best learning experiences
- ✓ It will assist the students with latest happenings, conceptual and practical aspects of technology, extensive hands on learning, etc
- **The Union Government – had identified 106 Coastal and Marine sites as ‘Conservation Reserves’ under its National Wildlife Action plan for the period of 2017-2031.**
- ✓ This was named in the 2nd biennial updated report which was made by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and was submitted to the UN body on Climate change in December 2018
- **The Government of India, Government of Himachal Pradesh and the World Bank - signed a \$40 Million Loan Agreement - to help bring clean and reliable drinking water to the citizens of the Greater Shimla area**



- ✓ The newly signed 'Shimla Water Supply and Sewerage Service Delivery Reform Programmatic Development Policy' Loan - is expected to improve water supply and sanitation (WSS) services in and around the hill city of Shimla
- **Lok Sabha – passed the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2018 on February 13, 2019**



- ✓ The new bill seeks to amend the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act, 1951
- ✓ The act was provided for the erection of a National Memorial in memory of those killed or wounded on April 13, 1919 in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar.
- ✓ The Bill seeks to create a dedicated Trust with the Prime Minister as the Chairperson, to manage the National Memorial.

INTERNATIONAL

- **US President Donald Trump - declares national emergency in the United States on February 15, 2019 – to build US-Mexico border wall**



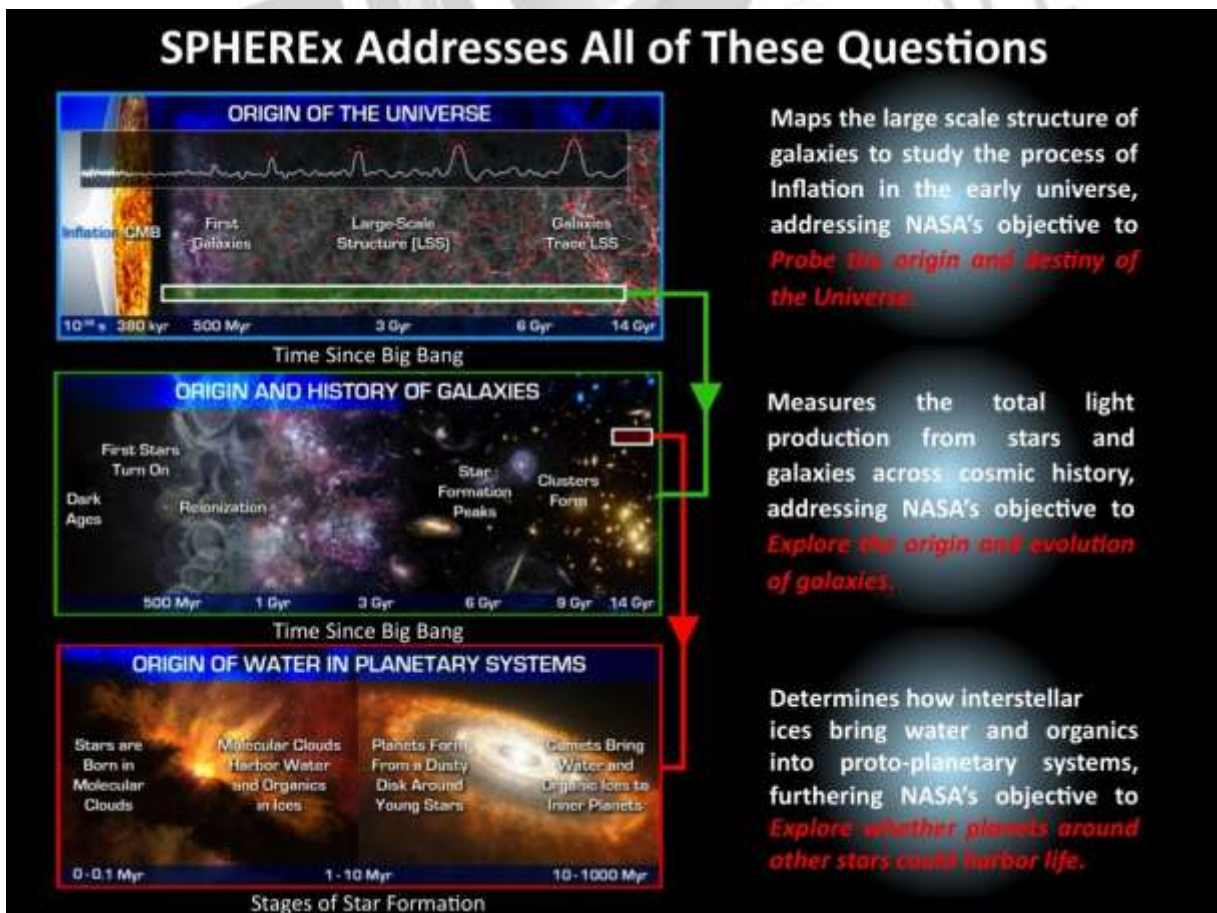
- ✓ The move intends to provide billions of dollars of federal money to construct a wall along the US-Mexico border
- ✓ The construction of wall would protect US from illegal immigrants, drug dealers and criminal cartels, according to the US President
- ✓ The building of 322-km wall is one of the poll promises of Donald Trump during his 2016 election campaign
- ✓ The disagreement over funding the wall resulted in the longest government shutdown in the US during December-January, which ended on January 25, 2019
- ✓ Under the National Emergencies Act, US presidents have declared nearly 60 national emergencies since 1976
- ✓ In total, so far, Bill Clinton is set to have declared 17 national emergencies, George W Bush 13 and Barack Obama 12, all for overseas crisis

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **NASA, the U.S. space agency - plans to send American astronauts back on the Moon by 2028, with unmanned demonstration missions in 2024 and 2026.**



- ✓ NASA's plan calls for 4 astronauts to spend as long as 7 days on the Moon.
 - ✓ Earlier, NASA had put humans for the first time on the Moon when Apollo 11 in July 1969 landed with Neil Armstrong as the first man to walk on the lunar surface
 - ✓ As per the plan document titled 'Broad Agency Announcement', NASA calls for commercial ventures to propose concepts for a descent module, a space refueling system and a transfer vehicle by March 25.
- **NASA – has announced a new space telescope mission called 'SPHEREx' - dedicated exclusively to understand the origins of life and the universe**



- ✓ It will also focus on the search for water and organic molecules within the Milky Way
- ✓ SPHEREx - The 'Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization and Ices Explorer'
- ✓ It will be launched in 2023 with an overall budget of \$242 million allocation
- ✓ Once placed in its orbit, SPHEREx will collect data on over 300 million galaxies, some as far as 10 billion light-years away from Earth, and 100 million stars in our own Milky Way every six months.

DEFENCE

- **Indian army – conducted the annual 'Exercise Topchi' at Deolali Camp near Nashik on February 12, 2019**



- ✓ During the exercise, it had demonstrated its artillery firepower, aviation and surveillance capacity
- ✓ The latest ultra-light Howitzer M-777, self-propelled gun K-9 Vajra and indigenous Swathi weapon-locating radar were demonstrated during the exercise
- ✓ The indigenous advanced light helicopter, light combat helicopter, Cheetah and Chetak helicopters also took part in the exercise

ECONOMY

- **The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) - has prepared a draft proposal for a new 'Digital tax' to be paid by the multinational internet firms operating in India**
- ✓ The draft proposal under the newly introduced concept of "significant economic presence", also known as digital permanent establishment (PE), seeks to impose tax at 30% to 40% rate, based on the revenues and user base of such companies in India

- ✓ The term PE was first proposed during the 2018 budget with the view to bring the digital economy (wherein businesses can run without any physical presence in a country) into the tax ambit
- ✓ The draft rules mandate that companies with more than 200K users will have to pay taxes on the basis of the revenue generated in India
- ✓ The move is expected to impact global technology giants such as Google, Facebook, Twitter, and Amazon
- **J P Morgan Chase – becomes the first US Bank to launch its own Cryptocurrency, ‘JPM Coin’**



- ✓ The bank is looking at cryptocurrency to move money around almost instantly, replacing slower conventional method of ‘wire transfer’
- ✓ The new digital coin will be used to settle transactions between clients of its wholesale payments business instantly.
- ✓ The bank’s coin won’t be something like bitcoin with its retail investors will never get to own it.
- ✓ Each JPM Coin is redeemable for one U.S. dollar which means that it is not as volatile as cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin
- ✓ JPM coin will run on a blockchain network called Quorum, which requires permissions and users must be approved by JP Morgan

AWARDS

- **Abdul Aziz Muhamat, a Sudanese refugee in an Australian detention centre – wins Martin Ennals Award 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland**



- ✓ Muhamat spent 5 years in an Australian detention centre on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea
 - ✓ The award is given to Muhamat for exposing “the very cruel asylum seeker policy of the Australian Government”
 - ✓ According to Muhamat, he was referred to as ‘number- QNK002’ without his name and prisoners were fed through a chain-link fence and treated worse than animals in the detention centre
 - ✓ Abdul Aziz Muhamat’s podcast “The Messenger” had earlier won best radio/audio feature at Australia’s Walkley Awards in 2017
 - ✓ He created it based on around 4,000 WhatsApp messages sent from the detention centre
 - ✓ The Martin Ennals Award is the world’s leading human rights honour, sometimes being referred to as the “Nobel Prize for human rights”
- **Siddhartha Lal, MD & CEO of Eicher Motors - has won the EY Entrepreneur of the year 2018**



- ✓ The award is in recognition of his efforts in the transformation of Eicher Motors and helping the company resurrect the Royal Enfield motorcycle brand in India and making it a global brand icon
- ✓ He will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) in Monte Carlo from 6th to 8th June 2019
- ✓ Azim Premji, Chairman of Wipro won the Lifetime Achievement Award - for putting the Indian Information Technology industry in the global market and his notable contribution to society as a philanthropist.
- ✓ Other EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2018 winners in other categories
 - ✓ Start-up - Byju Raveendran (BYJU'S)
 - ✓ Business Transformation – Kishore Biyani (Future Group)
 - ✓ Manufacturing – Nirmal K Minda (Minda Industries)
 - ✓ Services - Ritesh Agarwal (OYO Hotels and Homes)
 - ✓ Financial Services – Sanjay Agarwal (AU Small Finance Bank)
 - ✓ Consumer Products & Retail – Rajesh Mehra (Jaquar Group)
 - ✓ Life Sciences & Healthcare - Binish Chudgar (Intas Pharmaceuticals)
 - ✓ Entrepreneurial CEO – Bhaskar Bhat (Titan Company)
 - ✓ Energy, Real Estate & Infrastructure – Atul Ruia (The Phoenix Mills)

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- **Khooni Vaisakhi, a banned Punjabi Poem on Jallianwala Bagh Massacre**



- ✓ The poem was presented at Jallianwala Bagh on 13th April, 1919 by Nanak Singh, also known as 'Father of Punjabi Novels'
- ✓ But this poem was banned by the British after its publication in 1920 as it is critical of the British
- ✓ Now, the poem was rediscovered and translated into English by Navdeep Suri
- ✓ To mark the centenary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, this poem will be published by Harper Collins

- ✓ Jallianwala Bagh Massacre took place on 13 April, 1919 when troops of the British Indian Army under the command of Colonel Reginald Dyer fired into a crowd of freedom fighters, who had gathered in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab

SPORTS

- South African pacer Dale Steyn - overtook former Indian captain Kapil Dev and England's Stuart Broad - to become joint 7th highest wicket-taker in Test cricket

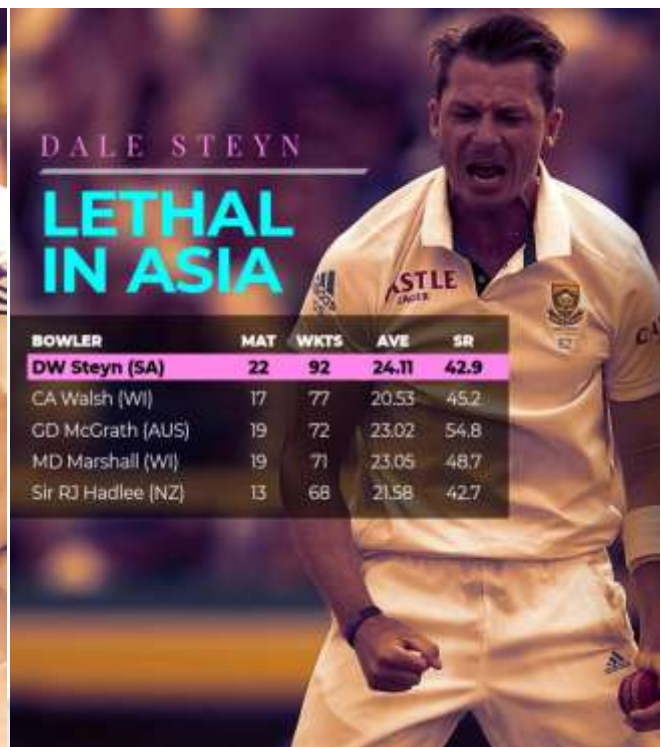
DALE STEYN
THE HIGHEST WICKET-TAKERS OF ALL-TIME

| BOWLER | MAT | WKTS | AVE |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| M Muralitharan (ICC/SL) | 133 | 800 | 22.72 |
| SK Warne (AUS) | 145 | 708 | 25.41 |
| A Kumble (INDIA) | 132 | 619 | 29.65 |
| JM Anderson (ENG) | 148 | 575 | 26.93 |
| GD McGrath (AUS) | 124 | 563 | 21.64 |
| CA Walsh (WI) | 132 | 519 | 24.44 |
| DW Steyn (SA) | 92 | 439 | 22.77 |
| SCJ Broad (ENG) | 126 | 437 | 29.05 |
| N Kapil Dev (INDIA) | 131 | 434 | 29.64 |
| HMRKB Herath (SL) | 93 | 433 | 28.07 |

DALE STEYN
HAS THE BEST STRIKE RATE IN TEST CRICKET HISTORY

| BOWLER | MAT | WKTS | SR |
|----------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| DW Steyn (SA) | 92 | 439 | 42.1 |
| Waqar Younis (PAK) | 87 | 373 | 43.4 |
| Shoaib Akhtar (PAK) | 46 | 178 | 45.7 |
| MD Marshall (WI) | 81 | 376 | 46.7 |
| AA Donald (SA) | 72 | 330 | 47 |

- ✓ Steyn has an excellent average of 22.77 – the tenth-highest amongst all fast bowlers in Test history (minimum of 40 Tests and 100 wickets). His average is the third-lowest (only after McGrath and Muttiah Muralitharan) in the top-10 wicket-takers' list.
- ✓ Steyn has picked a wicket approximately every 42 deliveries, ie 7 overs – this is the best strike rate (42.1) amongst all bowlers (pace and spin combine) in Test history (min. 40 Tests and 100 wickets).
- ✓ Only two fast bowlers – Richard Hadlee (2.87 wickets per innings bowled) and Dennis Lillee (2.69 wickets per innings) have a better wickets per innings ratio than Steyn (2.60)



- ✓ Only five fast bowlers – Hadlee (1.91 fives in an innings and tens in a match), Lillee (2.33), Alec Bedser (2.55), Terry Alderman (2.73) and Alan Davidson (2.75) have a better frequency of fifiers and ten-wicket hauls (combined) than Steyn (2.97; 26 fifiers and 5 ten-wicket hauls) in Test history.
- **Smiling Clouded Leopard – was chosen as the mascot for the National Games 2022 by the Sports and Youth Ministry**



- ✓ Meghalaya will host the 2022 National Games, coinciding with its 50th year of statehood
- ✓ Thus, it becomes the 3rd North eastern state to host the National Games, after Manipur (in 1999) and Assam (in 2007)

- ✓ Clouded Leopard is the state animal of Meghalaya, seen throughout the forests of Garo, Khasi and Jaintia Hills
- **Sunil Chhetri – honoured with the first ever ‘Football Ratna’ award by Football Delhi**



- ✓ He was recently named as the 6th Indian Footballer to win the Padma Shri awards
- ✓ On the occasion, Football Delhi also honoured Shubham Sarangi, youth player from Delhi who is currently playing for Delhi Dynamos squad in the ISL
- ✓ Sunil Chhetri, popularly known as Captain Fantastic, has scored the second highest number of goals in international football matches among active players after Cristiano Ronaldo.
- ✓ Chhetri has also been named AIFF (All India Football Federation) Player of the Year five times in 2007, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2017.

