

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 10, 2019**

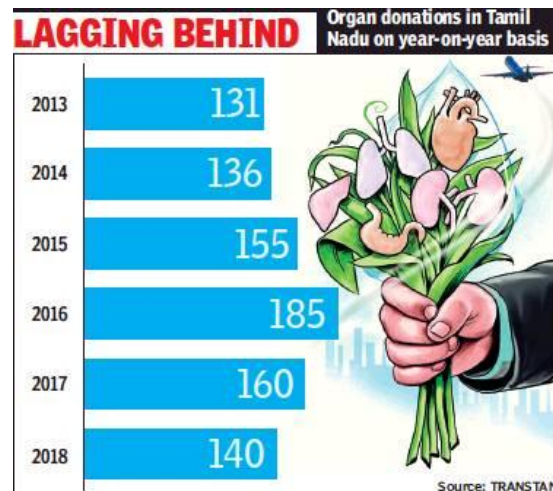
**TAMIL NADU**

- **Tamil Nadu State Police – launches ‘Online Police Verification Service’ on January 9, 2019**



- ✓ Aim of the Service - To check the identity of an applicant, to confirm the present address, and to see whether the applicant was involved in any criminal case as per records available with Tamil Nadu Police.
- ✓ Online Portal - [www.eservices.tnpolice.gov.in](http://www.eservices.tnpolice.gov.in)
- ✓ Charges – Rs 500 for individuals and Rs 1,000 for private companies or institutions
- ✓ In Chennai, City Police Commissioner A.K.Viswanathan formally launched the online service in the presence of State Crime Records Bureau chief and ADGP, Seema Agarwal and other police officers

- **Tamil Nadu – loses its 1<sup>st</sup> position status in Organ donation to Telangana in 2018**



- ✓ The state has recorded a 12% decline in donations in 2018 compared to 2017
- ✓ It had received 140 donations in 2018 compared to 160 in 2017
- **Chennai's Foxconn Technologies - to start assembling high-end Apple phones from early 2019**
  - ✓ The Taiwanese manufacturer will start assembling Apple's flagship phone, the iPhoneX, in its Sriperumbudur facility in Chennai
  - ✓ Foxconn is also planning to invest Rs 25 billion to expand its plant in Sriperumbudur
  - ✓ As of now, Wistron, a Taiwanese company, makes the lower end Apple models like iPhone 6S and SE in Bengaluru
  - ✓ The Chennai Foxconn plant was shut down in 2015 after Nokia India shut down in December 2014
  - ✓ Foxconn's Sri City facility in Andhra Pradesh has been manufacturing handsets for Xiaomi, Nokia and Gionee

## STATES

- **Telangana – enters into its first Guinness World Record achievement in the field of medicine**
  - ✓ The state-run MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Centre here has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for organising the largest men's health awareness programme on prostate cancer on a single day
  - ✓ Overall, 487 men participated in the awareness programme
  - ✓ Besides the Guinness World Record, the hospital also received recognition from 'High Range Book of World Records'

- **Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister, Pema Khandu - inaugurates India's longest single-lane steel cable suspension bridge over Siang River in Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh**



- ✓ The 300-metre long bridge has been named as 'Byorong bridge'
  - ✓ The Tsangpo river entering India through Arunachal Pradesh is called 'Siang' river
  - ✓ River Siang is considered as the lifeline of Arunachal Pradesh
- **Sikkim – plans to introduce 'Universal Basic Income' for the first time in the country by 2022**
  - ✓ Universal Basic Income (UBI) refers to a scheme in which the people are provided with a fixed amount of money irrespective of their income, resource or employment status
  - ✓ Sikkim plans to fund the scheme by selling its surplus power and by subsuming its other subsidies and allowances
  - ✓ The concept of UBI has been mooted by the 2017 Economic Survey as an alternative to social welfare programmes to alleviate poverty levels
  - ✓ The pilot programmes for the UBI has been successfully implemented earlier in the states of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh

## **NATIONAL**

- **All motor vehicles - to come fitted with tamper-proof high security registration plates (HSRPs) from April 1, 2019 - to protect against counterfeiting**
- ✓ The HSRPs including the third registration mark, wherever required, shall be supplied by vehicle manufacturers along with the vehicle manufactured on or after April 1, 2019 to their dealers

## FEATURES OF HIGH-SECURITY REGISTRATION PLATE



- ✓ An HSRP is a chromium-based hologram applied by hot stamping on the number plates both at the front and back of the vehicle - besides laser-branding of a permanent identification number
- ✓ Third registration mark refers to a chromium-based hologram sticker affixed on the inner side of the vehicles' windshield which will have the registration details
- **Union Government – approves the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2018**
  - ✓ It seeks to replace the existing CRZ Notification of 2011
  - ✓ The move encourages construction of buildings and launch tourism activities in areas that are closer to the high tide line (HTL)
  - ✓ Recommendations for changes were earlier made by the Shailesh Nayak Committee
  - ✓ Highlights
    - ✓ Relaxation of FSI (Floor space index) norms for CRZ-II (Urban) areas – to enable redevelopment of these areas to meet the emerging needs.
    - For CRZ-III (Rural) areas, two separate categories -- CRZ-III A & CRZ-III B, have now been stipulated
    - ✓ CRZ-III A refers to densely populated rural area, in which a No Development Zone (NDZ) of 50 meters from the HTL was stipulated as against the earlier 200 meters
    - ✓ CRZ-III B refers to less populated rural area, for which the NDZ lies at 200 metres from the HTL
    - ✓ Temporary tourism facilities such as shacks, toilet blocks, change rooms, drinking water facilities etc. have now been permitted in beaches.
    - ✓ Such temporary tourism facilities are also now permissible in the "No Development Zone" (NDZ) of the CRZ-III areas
    - ✓ The procedure for CRZ clearances has also been streamlined
    - ✓ No Development Zone (NDZ) of 20 meters has been stipulated for all Islands

➤ **Ministry of Women and Child Development - has launched an online campaign 'Web- Wonder Women'**



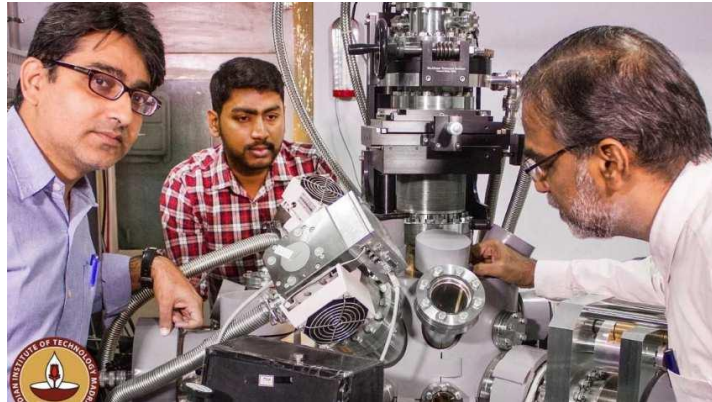
- ✓ The campaign aims to celebrate the exceptional achievements of women providing social change through social media
- ✓ It will receive nominations from meritorious women in the areas of Health, Media, Literature, Art, Sports, Environmental protection and fashion
- ✓ The nominations are then shortlisted and the final winners will be selected by a panel of judges

➤ **Prime Minister, Narendra Modi – inaugurates Gangajal Project in Agra**



- ✓ The project is meant to provide better and more assured water supply to the Agra city
- ✓ A budget of Rs 2880 crores has been allocated for the project
- ✓ Gangajal project aims to bring 140 cusecs of Ganga water to Agra city to meet its drinking water demand
- ✓ The project was launched in 2005 in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Japan)
- ✓ It was scheduled to be completed by March 2012 but got delayed eventually

➤ **Researchers from IIT, Madras – have developed Space fuel in lab conditions**



- ✓ They have developed Clathrate hydrates in vacuum, 1000 billion times below the atmospheric pressure called ultra-high vacuum (UHV) and temperature close to  $-263^{\circ}\text{C}$  (10 Kelvin), the conditions which exist in deep space
- ✓ Clathrate hydrates are molecules like methane, carbon dioxide, etc., trapped in well-defined cages of water molecules forming crystalline solids
- ✓ They are formed at high pressures and low temperatures at places such as the ocean floor below the sea level
- ✓ They are considered as the future source of fuel with many countries including India started exploring hydrates in the ocean bed
- ✓ The work was performed by Jyotirmoy Ghosh with his colleagues under the guidance of Prof. Thalappil Pradeep and Dr. Rajnish Kumar of IIT Madras
- ✓ The research paper was published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS)

## **COURT VERDICT**

- **High Court of Kerala - sets a 7-day notice period for hartals and general strike in the State**
- ✓ The bench comprising Chief Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Justice AK Jayasankaran Nambiar said that a 'flash' hartal was unconstitutional
  - ✓ The Court held that within the 7 days, any citizen can challenge the declaration of hartal
  - ✓ The High Court of Kerala had declared 'bandh' unconstitutional way back in 1997 in Bharat Kumar v State of Kerala case, which was later affirmed by the Supreme Court as well
  - ✓ The state witnessed as many as 97 strikes and hartals in 2018 due to various reasons

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **1<sup>st</sup> India-Central Asia Dialogue - to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on January 12 and 13, 2019**
- ✓ Co-Chaired by - External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj and the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Abdulaziz Kamilov
- ✓ Participants - Foreign Ministers of Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan & Afghanistan (as a special invitee)
- ✓ The dialogue has its origin with the visit of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi to all the five Central Asian nations – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in 2015

## PERSONALITIES

- **World Bank President Jim Yong Kim - announced that he is resigning from his position on February 1, 2019**



- ✓ Kim, has been in this position for over six years now with his term ending in 2022
  - ✓ Kristalina Georgieva, World Bank CEO, will assume the role of interim President from February 1, 2019
- **Colin O’Brady, American explorer - becomes the first person ever to cross Antarctica from coast to coast solo, unsupported and unaided by wind**



- ✓ He covered the final 77.54 miles over 32 hours without sleep
- ✓ Altogether, he took 54 days to walk 932 miles across the frozen continent, dragging a 170kg luggage
- ✓ In 2016, Briton Henry Worsley died after stopping the same trek only 30 miles from the end
- ✓ Currently, another Briton, Louis Rudd is also travelling across Antarctica and he was more than 80 miles behind his American rival, when O’Brady completed the trek
- ✓ Earlier in 1997, Norwegian Borge Ousland was the first person to ski alone across Antarctica, but he was assisted by ‘wind’ during his trek

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **ISRO – is planning to set up Space Galleries in various locations in the country**
  - ✓ The Space Galleries are expected to spread the knowledge about space science and technology amongst the people of the country
  - ✓ Initially, Space Galleries are planned to be established at Birla Science Centre at Hyderabad, Nehru Science Centre at Mumbai and National Science Centre at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi
- **Annual Bird Census – has been carried out in Odisha’s Chilika lake on January 4, 2019**
  - ✓ Chilika is considered as Asia’s largest brackish water lagoon of 1,100 sq km
  - ✓ The annual census revealed that a total of 10,47,868 birds belonging to 181 different species have taken shelter this winter
  - ✓ Last winter, a total of 8,93,390 birds belonging to 147 different species had been counted in the lake

## DEFENCE

- **Russia - announced a successful initial flight test of the Avangard (Vanguard) hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV)**



- ✓ Russian Strategic Rocket Forces would receive the first Avangard HGVs integrated with the UR-100N UTKh ICBMs in 2019
- ✓ Hypersonic weapons – An Introduction
- ✓ Hypersonic weapons are those that can travel more than 5 times the speed of sound, or around one mile (1.6km) per second
- ✓ There are 2 types of Hypersonic weapons namely -- Hypersonic cruise missiles and Hypersonic boost-glide weapons
- ✓ Hypersonic cruise missiles are powered by rockets or jets throughout their flight. They are like the faster versions of existing cruise missiles, like the Tomahawk
- ✓ Hypersonic boost-glide weapons are launched into the upper atmosphere through ballistic missiles, after which they release hypersonic glide vehicles (HGVs) which fly lower and faster to the target in an unpredictable manner
- ✓ HGV’s like Avangard are intended to carry nuclear warheads while the normal types destroy targets with the kinetic energy of impact alone, using their high speed and accuracy



## ECONOMY

- **Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) - has constituted a "Research Advisory" committee headed by Sankar De – to link Research into policy making**



- ✓ The committee features prominent financial economists and market practitioners
- ✓ SEBI, the country's market regulator, was established in 1988 and given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Pranav R Mehta, President of the National Solar Energy Federation of India - has become appointed the next president of the 'Global Solar Council'**



- ✓ With the appointment, he becomes the first Indian to head the Council
- ✓ The Global Solar Council is an International Coalition of more than 30 nations with its headquarters in Washington DC, USA
- ✓ It was established following the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UN COP 21)

## SPORTS

- **MC Mary Kom - became the World No 1 Boxer in 45-48 kg category with 1700 points - as per the latest International Boxing Association's (AIBA) world rankings released on January 10**



- ✓ She became the first female boxer to win six world championships, with her recent win in Delhi during November 2018 (2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2018)
- ✓ She also won gold medals at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast and the Silesian Open Boxing Tournament in Poland

- ✓ Mary Kom remains the only Indian female boxer to have won an Olympic medal, a bronze at the 2012 London Games
  - ✓ In 2010, she had the honour of bearing the Queen's Baton in its opening ceremony run at the 2010 Commonwealth Games of Delhi
  - ✓ Her autobiography, Unbreakable, co-authored by Dina Serto, was published in 2013
  - ✓ In April 2016, she was nominated by the Indian President as a member of the Rajya Sabha
  - ✓ In March 2017, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports appointed Mary Kom along with Akhil Kumar as national observers for boxing
  - ✓ Mary was awarded with the Padma Bhushan in 2013
  - ✓ She was also conferred with the Padma Shri (2006), Arjuna Award (2003) and the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award (2009)
- **Sharath, Indian Men's table tennis player – creates history with a record ninth title in men's singles category at the 80th National Table Tennis Championships, Cuttack**
- ✓ He overtook Kamlesh Mehta's eight national titles with a spirited display



- **18 year-old Archana Kamath, Indian women table tennis player - won her maiden senior national title in women's singles at the 80th National Table Tennis Championships, Cuttack**
- ✓ She became the second youngest woman to win the trophy after Rinku Gupta in 1988
- **Ashutosh Aman of Gaya (Bihar) - becomes the highest wicket-taker in a single Ranji Trophy season in 2018-19 with 68 wickets**



- ✓ The 32-year-old left-arm spinner and Bihar team captain overtook legend Bishan Singh Bedi's 44-year old record
- ✓ Bedi had taken 64 wickets for Delhi in the 1974-75 season

- **Khelo India Youth games 2019 – inaugurated at Shree shiv chhatrapati sports complex in Pune, Maharashtra on January 9 by Youth affairs and sports minister, Rajyavardhan Rathore and Maharashtra Chief Minister, Devendra Fadnavis**



- ✓ As part of the Khelo India movement, Sports minister Rajyavardhan singh rathore
- ✓ launched the '5MinuteAur' challenge
- ✓ In the Challenge, he asked India's leading athletes and actors to share their childhood stories to play for extra 5 minutes before proceeding to their homework – in order to motivate students to play



- ✓ Badminton player, Saina Nehwal was the first to accept the challenge.
- ✓ In the current edition of Khelo India, 1,000 players will be selected from the various competitions and they will be given Rs 5 lakh each per annum for the next 8 years
- ✓ The 12-day, Khelo India Youth Games were earlier called as Khelo India School Games
- ✓ They are held annually in January or February in 2 categories- under-17 school students and under-21 college students
- ✓ Kelo India Youth games are part of Khelo India programme that aims to develop the sports culture at grass roots level
- ✓ The athletes will compete in 18 different disciplines, of which 6 are team sports
- ✓ At the Khelo India School Games 2018, Haryana topped with 38 gold medals followed by Maharashtra with 36 golds

- **Harendra Singh– was removed as Indian men's hockey coach by Hockey India on January 9, 2019**



- ✓ He was asked to take over as the Coach of the Indian Junior Team to develop the sport at the junior level
- ✓ In the interim, the team will be overseen by Hockey India High-Performance Director David John and current Analytical Coach, Chris Ciriello
- ✓ Harendra was awarded the Dronacharya Award in 2012
- ✓ He was the head coach of the Indian junior team that won the 2016 Men's Hockey Junior World Cup

- ✓ He was the head coach of the Indian women's hockey team that won the gold medal at the 2017 Women's Hockey Asia Cup.
- ✓ In May 2018, he replaced Sjoerd Marijne of the Netherlands who took over the women's team
- ✓ Indian team recently lost to Belgium in quarter finals in the World Cup in Bhubaneswar
- ✓ It had won the Bronze medal in the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia

## RANKINGS

### ➤ **Henley Passport Index – World's most Powerful Passport**

- ✓ Japan has topped the global Henley index for the world's most powerful passport in 2019, for the second time in a row—following the document's access to 190 countries



- ✓ Singapore tied with South Korea to take the 2<sup>nd</sup> spot following visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 189 destinations
- ✓ The South Korean passport was third in the previous index, released in October 2018, and rose a place in the ranking due to a new visa-on-arrival agreement with India
- ✓ France and Germany remain third in the rankings, offering its citizens visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 188 countries
- ✓ Tied for the fourth place are Denmark, Finland, Italy and Sweden
- ✓ India is ranked at the 79th position with a jump of 2 places from 81<sup>st</sup> in 2018
- ✓ The Henley Passport Index is compiled by global citizenship and residence advisory firm Henley & Partners, based on data provided by the International Air Transport Authority

### ➤ **Democracy Index 2019 – Released by ‘The Economist Intelligence Unit’**

- ✓ The index ranks 167 countries by 60 indicators across five broad categories -- electoral process and pluralism, the functioning of government, political participation, democratic political culture and civil liberties
- ✓ The index classifies each country into various categories such as - full democracy, flawed democracy, hybrid regime or authoritarian
- ✓ Norway has again topped the list, followed by Iceland and Sweden (similar to last year rankings) under ‘Full democracy’ categories

### The world's most democratic countries by rank

Rank	Country
1	Norway
2	Iceland
3	Sweden
4	New Zealand
5	Denmark
6	Canada
7	Ireland
8	Finland
9	Australia
10	Switzerland

Source: Economist Intelligence Unit

- ✓ India is ranked at 41<sup>st</sup> position and classified as a 'flawed democracy' according to the index
- ✓ India achieved a score of 7.23 on the index
- ✓ This is the lowest ever score attributed to India in the index ever since its publication
- ✓ Last year, India was ranked at 42<sup>nd</sup> with the same score of 7.23
- ✓ Only 4.5% of the world's people live in a full democracy
- ✓ Australia (9) and New Zealand (4) are the only "full democracies" in the entire Asia-Pacific region
- ✓ The annual index has been produced by the London-headquartered newspaper 'The Economist' since 2006

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ World Hindi Day – January 10



- ✓ The day marks the anniversary of first World Hindi Conference which was held in 1975 inaugurated by the then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi
- ✓ World Hindi Day aims to promote the language at the global stage

- ✓ It was first commenced on January 10, 2006 by former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh
- ✓ National Hindi Diwas is celebrated on September 14, marking the day in 1949, when the constituent assembly adopted Hindi, written in Devanagari script, as the official language of the Union
- ✓ The first conference had Mauritius prime minister Seewoosagur Ramgoolam as the chief guest
- ✓ Hindi is the fourth most spoken language of the world, with around 258 million people having it as their mother tongue
- ✓ In Fiji islands, Hindi has been given the official language status
- ✓ World Hindi Congress Venues
  - ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> World Hindi Conference - Nagpur, India - 10-12 January 1975
  - ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> World Hindi Conference - Port Louis, Mauritius - 28-30 August 1976
  - ✓ 3<sup>rd</sup> World Hindi Conference - New Delhi, India - 28-30 October 1983
  - ✓ 4<sup>th</sup> World Hindi Conference - Port Louis, Mauritius - 02-04 December 1993
  - ✓ 5<sup>th</sup> World Hindi Conference- Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago - 04-08 April 1996
  - ✓ 6<sup>th</sup> World Hindi Conference - London, U.K. - 14-18 September 1999
  - ✓ 7<sup>th</sup> World Hindi Conference - Paramaribo, Suriname - 06-09 June 2003
  - ✓ 8<sup>th</sup> World Hindi Conference - New York, America - 13-15 July 2007
  - ✓ 9<sup>th</sup> World Hindi Conference - Johannesburg, South Africa - 22-24 September 2012
  - ✓ 10<sup>th</sup> World Hindi Conference - Bhopal, India - 10-12 September 2015
  - ✓ 11<sup>th</sup> World Hindi Conference - Port Louis, Mauritius – 18-20 August 2018

