

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 24, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Tamil Nadu Government – to conduct the exams for the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) ‘online’ from the next academic year**
 - ✓ The move aims at ensuring speedy and accurate results for the students
 - ✓ The question papers for these examinations are sent by the Directorate General of Training
 - ✓ There are currently 88 Government ITIs and 484 private affiliated ITIs in the state with a total intake of over one lakh students
 - ✓ The private ITIs are affiliated to the National Council for Vocational Training for imparting training in approved courses
- ◆ **Metro Water – to soon set up 2 waste water treatment plants to provide water to the Chennai city**
 - ✓ The 2 plants, to be set up in Perungudi and Nesappakkam, will be operational within the next six months
 - ✓ They will have the capacity to treat 10 MLD (million litres a day) of used water
 - ✓ Metrowater has roped in consultants from IIT, Madras for consultation for the project
 - ✓ The total water requirement of the Chennai city is 1200 MLD
- ◆ **Trivitron Healthcare, Chennai-based medical equipment manufacturer – to tie up with a Japan major – to manufacture MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) and CT scan machines in Sriperumbudur**
 - ✓ This was announced by the Company’s chairman, GSK Velu on the sidelines of the Global Investors Meet 2019
 - ✓ The tie up announced by Trivitron, a Rs 700 crore company, is expected to bring down the cost of the MRI machines by 30% initially and once stabilized to even 50%



- ✓ No units manufacture MRI machines currently in the country, even though CT scan machines are assembled in the country
- ✓ The MRI machines cost between Rs 4 crore to Rs 10 crore at present
- ✓ Earlier, Trivitron had tied up with Japan's Hitachi to manufacture ultrasound machines in Sriperumbudur
- ✓ The company also makes mammography machines in its Mumbai factory
- ✓ In October 2018, General Electric (GE) signed a MoU with SAMEER, a R&D lab under the Department of Electronics and Information Technology to co-develop an MRI machine
- ✓ GE supplied the magnet, which is one of the most critical components, for the prototype that SAMEER is developing

NATIONAL

◆ India's 70th Republic Day Parade – to have many firsts this year

- ✓ Four Indian National Army (INA) veterans, who are in the age group of 95-99, all from Haryana, will participate in the parade sequence in a jeep
- ✓ The honour recognises the services and efforts of INA veterans, as India had recently commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Proclamation of the Azad Hind 'Sarkar' in 2018
- ✓ The next first involves the march by an all-women paramilitary contingent, Assam Rifles
- ✓ Assam Rifles, the oldest paramilitary, started inducing women in the force since 2015
- ✓ A display of M777 A2 ultra-light howitzers, which were inducted into the Army in 2018 from the US, will be seen at the parade for the first time
- ✓ Another artillery, K9 Vajra self-propelled guns, which are being manufactured by L&T under the 'Make in India' programme, will also be seen in the parade
- ✓ During the flypast, IAF's AN-32 jets will be flying on bio fuel for the first time
- ✓ 'Sankhnaad', a martial tune created for the Indian armed forces – will be played by three contingents for the first time in the parade
- ✓ In this year's parade, Captain Shikha Surabhi will become the first woman to be a part of Army's 'Daredevils' motorcycle stunt team - comprising of 33 men riding on 9 bikes to form a 'pyramid' shape



- ✓ Lt Bhavana Kasturi will lead an all-male contingent of Army Service Corps, which is participating in the parade after 23 years

◆ **Indian Railways – to recruit around 2,30,000 more employees under various cadres over the next two years in two phases**

- ✓ This was announced by the Railways Minister, Piyush Goyal on January 23
- ✓ This will be the first major recruitment in India with the benefit of 10% reservations for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of General Category after the passage of 103rd Constitutional Amendment in the Parliament
- ✓ The first phase of fresh recruitment of 1,31,328 posts will be initiated in the month of February-March 2019 and completed by April-May 2020
- ✓ The second phase recruitment of around 99,000 personnel will be initiated in May-June 2020 and finished by July-August 2021

◆ **Union Ministry of Home Affairs - announced that Aadhaar Cards are now valid travel documents for Indians under 15 and over 65 years travelling to Nepal and Bhutan**

- ✓ Indian citizens going to Nepal and Bhutan don't need a visa if they have a valid passport, a photo identity card issued by the Government of India or the Voter's ID card issued by the Election Commission
- ✓ Earlier PAN card, driving licence and ration card were used for 'identity proof' for the Indians in Under 15 and Over 65 age categories, but now 'Aadhaar Cards' have been added to the list
- ✓ The Union Government notified the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 on July 12, 2016
- ✓ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) was founded in 2009 with former Infosys CEO, Nandan Nilekani as its chairman

◆ **'Shehri Samridhi Utsav' - to begin from February 1, 2019 and conclude on February 15, 2019**



- ✓ As part of the Utsav, a series of events were planned by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- ✓ It will focus on urban livelihoods and extending the outreach of National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) to the poorest of the poor and the most vulnerable, and facilitate access of SHG members to the other government schemes

INTERNATIONAL

◆ UNESCO - has named the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro as the World Capital of Architecture for 2020

- ✓ Rio will be the first city to receive the title under a programme launched together by UNESCO and the International Union of Architects (UIA) in November 2018
- ✓ The city outscored Paris and Melbourne to get the position
- ✓ The city is also home to works of renowned architects such as Oscar Niemeyer, who also designed the capital city of Brasilia.



- ✓ With the recognition as the World Capital of Architecture, the city will hold a series of events under the theme “All the worlds. Just one world”
- ✓ The city will also promote the internationally agreed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’s 11th Goal: “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.”
- ✓ It would also be hosting the 27th edition of the International Union of Architects’ World Congress in July 2020, a once-in-every three year event
- ✓ UNESCO
- ✓ UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
- ✓ Headquarters – Paris, France
- ✓ Established – November 4, 1946

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ The 2nd World Orange Festival - was organised in Nagpur from January 18-21, 2019



- ✓ The festival, while offering its famed oranges to the world, will also showcase and brand the exquisite fruit in order to boost its export
- ✓ Agricultural experts and scientists from various countries will participate in the workshops and guide farmers
- ✓ It was inaugurated by the Maharashtra Chief Minister, Devendra Fadnavis with Union Minister for Surface Transport and Shipping, Nitin Gadkari being the guest of honour
- ✓ It was organized by Lokmat Media Group

PERSONALITIES

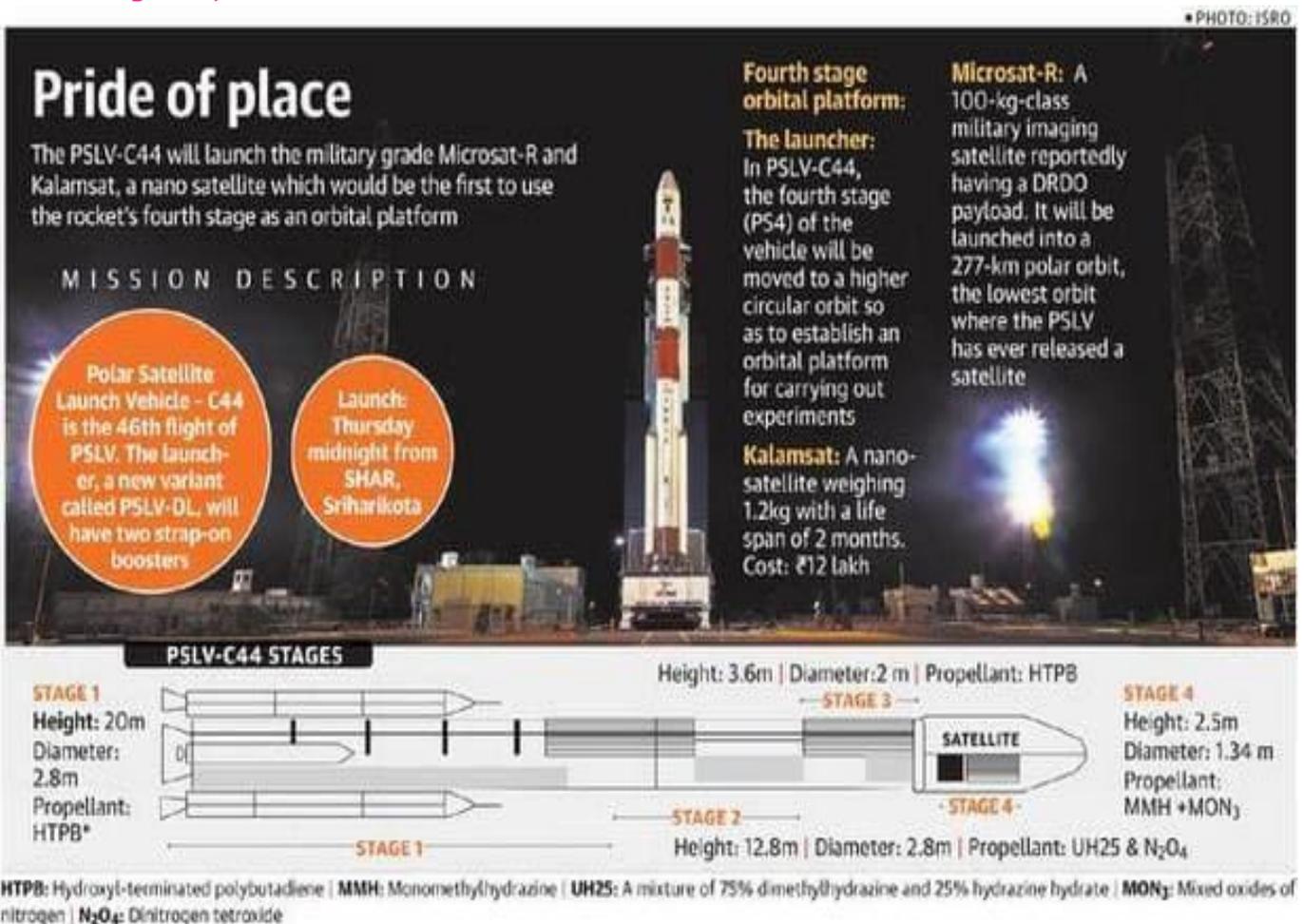
- ◆ **Indian mountaineer, Satyarup Siddhanta - became the world's youngest mountaineer to climb the seven highest peaks and volcanic summits across all continents**



- ✓ He had recently conquered Antarctica's highest volcanic summit, Mount Sidley
- ✓ Satyarup achieved the unique feat at the age of 35 years and 262 days, setting a new world record
- ✓ He beat Australia's Daniel Bull who did it at the age of 36 years and 157 days
- ✓ With this feat, Satyarup also became the first Indian to conquer the seven mountain peaks and seven volcanic summits
- ✓ 7 summits, 9 peaks
- ✓ Mt Kilimanjaro, Africa (5895 m) – June 29, 2012 and June 14, 2018
- ✓ Mt Elbrus, Europe (5642 m) – June 27, 2013
- ✓ Mt Aconcagua, South America (6962m) - January 13, 2014
- ✓ Mt Denali, North America (6190m) - June 23, 2014
- ✓ Mt Mont Blanc, Western Europe (4810 m) – September 23, 2014
- ✓ Mt Kosciuszko, Australia (2228 m) - June 12, 2015
- ✓ Mt Everest, Asia (8848 m) - May 21, 2016
- ✓ Mt Carstenz, Oceania (4884 m) - June 13, 2017
- ✓ Mt Vinson Massif, Antarctica (4892 m) - December 15, 2017
- ✓ 7 Volcanic Summits
- ✓ Mt Kilimanjaro
- ✓ Mt Elbrus
- ✓ Mt Ojos Del Salado, South America (6893 m) - January 15, 2018
- ✓ Mt Damavand, Asia (5610 m) - September 10, 2018
- ✓ Mt Giluwe, Oceania (4367 m) - November 9, 2018
- ✓ Mount Pico de Orizaba, North America- December 5, 2018

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - to launch a students' satellite, Kalamsat and an imaging satellite, Microsat-R - from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh on January 24, 2019**



- ✓ PSLV C44 rocket, carrying the satellites, will eject 700 kg Microsat-R at an altitude of about 277 km into its orbit
- ✓ Kalamsat, prepared by a student and Chennai-based Space Kidz India, is a nano satellite (10 x 10 x 10 cm) weighing 1.2 kg
- ✓ It has a life span of about two months and is meant for HAM radio services
- ✓ The Kalamsat will be the first to use fourth stage (PS4) of the launch vehicle PSLV-C44 as an orbital platform
- ✓ Normally, the fourth stage is kept deserted in space after the injection of the satellites
- ✓ This is the first time when it will be kept 'live' for carrying out innovative studies.
- ✓ ISRO will be using the aluminium tank for the first time in the fourth stage of the launch of PSLV C 44.

SPORTS

- ◆ **Indian star wrestler, Vinesh Phogat - became the first Indian athlete to be nominated for the prestigious Laureus 'World Comeback of the Year' Award for the year 2019**



- ✓ She competes with eminent sportspersons like golfer Tiger Woods, Canadian snowboarder Mark McMorris, American alpine ski racer Lindsey Vonn, Japanese figure skater Yuzuru Manyu and Dutch para-snowboarding star Bibian Mentel-Spee for the Award
- ✓ Vinesh bagged gold at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games apart from winning silver in the 2018 Asian Championships in Bishkek and a gold at the Asian Games in Jakarta
- ✓ Phogat was one of the favourites to win a medal for India at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, but a horrific knee injury forced her out of the tournament during the quarter-finals
- ✓ The Laureus World Sports Awards is an annual awards ceremony, which honours individuals and teams from the sports fraternity for their sporting achievements throughout the year
- ✓ It was established in 1999 and the first awards were given away on May 25, 2000 in Monte Carlo at which Nelson Mandela gave the keynote speech
- ✓ Swiss tennis player, Roger Federer with 6 awards has won it the maximum number of times

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ National Girl Child Day – January 24



- ✓ Theme 2019 – 'Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow'
- ✓ The day was established by the Women and Child Development Ministry in 2008
- ✓ The observance of the day focuses on important issues pertaining to Girls such as declining sex ratio, female foeticide, child marriage, gender inequality and disparity in India
- ✓ On the same occasion, the Women and Child Development Ministry also observed the anniversary of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme
- ✓ The scheme was launched by PM Narendra Modi in January 2015 to prevent gender biased sex selective elimination, ensure survival and protection of the girl child
- ✓ Following an improving trend of Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) in 161 implementing districts, PM Modi in March 2018 launched all India expansion of BBBP covering all 640 districts, as per Census 2011

