

National Current Affairs – February 2019

Indian embassy in US opens 24/7 hotline to assist Indian students

- The Indian embassy in the US has opened a 24/7 hotline to assist Indian students arrested by the American authorities for alleged immigration rules violation. As many as 129 Indians are among the 130 foreign students arrested for allegedly enrolling at a fake university to remain in the US.

NFDC declared winner under Miniratna Category by Ministry of MSME

- National Film Development Corporation of India has been selected as Winner under the Miniratna Category (Category II) by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). This has been done as part of Endeavour by Ministry of MSME to felicitate select CPSEs to recognize their exemplary work towards promotion of SC/ST entrepreneurs.

PM inaugurates National Cancer Institute in Haryana

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stones for six projects in Haryana, including a National Cancer Institute (NIC) at Badhsa in Jhajjar district and Shri Krishna Ayush University at Kurukshetra, in Haryana.

Basant Panchmi festival

- The festival of Basant Panchmi is being celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety. It is celebrated as Saraswati Puja on Panchmi of Shukla Paksha in Magh Maas. West Bengal celebrates Saraswati Puja with traditional fervour.

5% quota bill for Gujjars, four other communities

- Rajasthan government passed a bill to provide five per cent quota in jobs and educational institutions to Gurjars and four other communities.
- The government introduced the Rajasthan Backward Classes Amendment Bill, 2019, which was passed by the assembly.
- The government has also decided to increase the ceiling of creamy layer from Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 8 lakh. The bill seeks to increase the backward classes' reservation from present 21 per cent to 26 per cent.

Report on Determining Methodology for Fixing National Minimum Wage

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment had constituted an expert committee on 2017, under the Chairmanship Dr. Anoop Satpathy to review and recommend methodology for fixation of National Minimum Wage (NMW).
- The Expert Committee has submitted its report on “Determining the Methodology for Fixation of the National Minimum Wage” to the Government of India.

Handbook on Prevention of Accidents and Awareness of First Aid

- Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare released a communication material comprising First Aid Module for Community, Handbook on Prevention of Accidents and Awareness of First Aid, and a documentary film on the occasion of '30th Road Safety Week' at a function.

First Mega Food Park in the state

- Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti inaugurated Sikaria Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd at Village Tulakona in Agartala. This is the first Mega Food Park in the state of Tripura.

All India Radio FM Station at Nellore

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated an All India Radio FM Station at Nellore in Andhra Pradesh.

Union Minister inaugurates, lays foundations of various schemes in Haridwar

- Union minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid foundations of various schemes amounting to 5894 crore rupees in Haridwar. He also inaugurated snan ghat in Chandi ghat and pumping station to stop the drainage system from polluting the Ganga.

Rs. 1.32 lakh crore tax free budget for 2019-20

- Haryana Finance Minister Capt Abhimanyu presented the 1,32,165.99 crore rupees tax free budget for 2019-20 in the State Assembly. It is 14.73 percent over Budget Estimates and 9.79 percent over revised estimates of 2018-19.
- Over Rs. 46,000 crore have been allocated to 15 Sustainable Development Goals being implemented in the state.

Government increases Risk & Hardship allowance for CAPF personnel

- Union Home Ministry has announced the hike in Risk and Hardship allowance for Central Armed Police Forces personnel deployed in Left Wing Extremism states and Jammu and Kashmir. Troop's upto the rank of Inspector will now get Rs. 17,300 as against the existing Rs. 9,700, while the officers will get Rs. 25,000 as against the existing Rs. 17,300 per month.

Plan to install CCTVs to curb crimes

- The Kolkata Police has decided to install CCTVs at important places to curb various types of crimes and monitor traffic rules. Around 1 thousand CCTVs will be installed at strategic locations of the city. The fund for the purpose will be available under the Smart city schemes.

29 infra projects of CAPF inauguration

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate 29 infrastructure projects both residential and non-residential buildings of Central Armed Police Forces in New Delhi. These projects have been constructed at various locations across the country at a total cost of Rs. 1,714.97 crore.

NID at Bhopal and Jorhat Inaugurated

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, inaugurated National Institutes of Design (NID) at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh and Jorhat in Assam through video conference from New Delhi on 22nd February 2019.
- Both institutes are autonomous institutions under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Oil Marketing Companies to engage 10,000 women as grassroots energy ambassadors

- In Odisha, Oil Marketing Companies will engage more than 10,000 rural women as 'Ujjwala Didis' to act as grassroots energy ambassadors across the state to ensure sustainability of LPG use.
- Ujjwala Didis will act as a bridge between existing and prospective LPG consumers and the distributors in the state.

Inter-state police meeting

- Top police officials of southern states held an inter-state coordination meeting at Ooty in Tamil Nadu.
- The officials discussed measures to check inter-state smuggling of liquor and monitor the movement of illegal arms, explosives and suspects.

Telangana govt announces exgratia of Rs 25 lakh each to families of Pulwama CRPF martyrs

- Telangana Government announced an exgratia of 25 lakh rupees each to the families of the Pulwama CRPF martyrs.

Foundation stones for two road projects

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will lay the foundation stones for two road projects worth Rs. 746 crore in Punjab.

PM Modi receives Seoul Peace Prize

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the prestigious Seoul Peace Prize - 2018 for his contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth.
- The award was presented to him by the Seoul Peace Prize Foundation at a grand ceremony in Seoul.

Government releases passenger charter specifying rights of air travellers

- Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu released the passenger charter which specifies rights of air travellers, at an event in New Delhi.
- The charter states that if a domestic flight is expected to be delayed by more than six hours, then the airline will offer an option of alternate flight to the passenger within that time, or it will refund the full price of the ticket.

‘Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation’ – 2018

- The ‘Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation’ for the year 2018 have been awarded to 101 Police personnel belonging to 25 States/UT/ Central Investigating Agencies.

Rs 34 cr of IOC for clean Ganga movement

- Petroleum Minister Dhramendra Pradhan gave 34 crore rupees of Indian Oil Corporation for clean Ganga movement. The government is committed to clean Ganga fully in next 13 months.

National Conference of Energy Ministers

- In Madhya Pradesh, the Central Zone Power Distribution Company, Bhopal and West Zone Power Distribution Company, Indore have been awarded the Saubhagya award under Pradhanmantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana at the National Conference of Energy Ministers. The award included 100 crore rupees each.
- The Central Zone Power Distribution Company, Bhopal is the first power distribution company in the country which has illuminated more than 7 lakh 85 thousand houses while around Four lakh houses have been electrified by the West Zone Power Distribution Company, Indore under Pradhanmantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana - Saubhagya.

National e-Governance Awards 2019

- Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office, Dr Jitendra Singh presented National e-Governance Awards, 2019 in New Delhi.
- The awards are given every year to recognise and promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives.

MSP for Minor Forest Produce

- Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram will launch Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce and Value Addition Component of Van Dhan scheme in New Delhi.
- The Ministry also expanded the coverage of the Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce Scheme to 50 Minor Forest Produce.
- The MSP has also been raised between 30 per cent and 40 per cent in case of each of the Commodities.

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes

- The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is the most coveted national recognition bestowed upon young scientists and engineers to honour their research and developmental work in India. It was first instituted in 1957 to honour the eminent scientist Dr Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar who was also the founder Director and the chief architect of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR.

Sangeet Natak Akademi awards

- President Ram Nath Kovind gave away the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2017 at Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- Forty-two artists from the fields including Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional, Folk, and Tribal music were awarded.

Sena medals

- In Udhampur, 92 army men were awarded Sena medals at an investiture ceremony for their gallantry and distinguished services.

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