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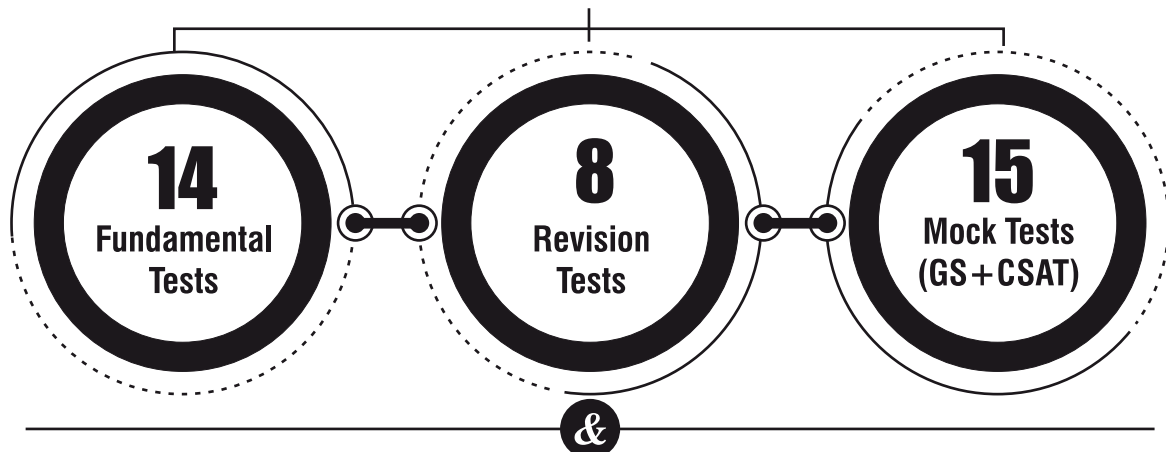
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## 1 SURYA KIRAN – XIV

- India and Nepal conducted the 14 days long Exercise, Surya Kiran-XIV, at Nepal Army Battle School (NABS), Salijhandi, Rupendehi district of Nepal.
- The 14 days long joint training was based on counter-insurgency operations in jungle and mountainous terrain.
- Both Armies also practised response mechanism in the eventualities of natural and man-made disasters.
- As part of the exercise, important lectures, demonstrations and drills related to counter insurgency, counter-terrorism operations and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief response mechanism were rehearsed and executed jointly.

## 2 MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

The fifth meeting of the Economic Advisory Council of the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC) was held recently.

### Important issues discussed:

- Possible macro assumptions for the Commission's award period relating to real growth, inflation etc were discussed in detail.
- Structural shift in inflation, the relationship between the GDP deflator and the consumer price inflation and possible trajectories of movement in real activity were discussed.
- Tax revenues and expenditure patterns emerging both at the Union and the States level.
- A possible way to improve tax collection for additional resource mobilization.
- Issues related to stabilization of Goods & Services Tax (GST), the relationship between GST Council and Finance Commission and GST compensation being paid to States.
- Issues related to compliance and adherence to Fiscal responsibility legislations (FRLs) enacted by respective governments.

### Finance Commission of India:

- ▶ Article 280 of the Indian Constitution provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi-judicial body.
- ▶ The Commission is constituted by the President every fifth year (or at such earlier time as he considers necessary).
- ▶ It consists of a Chairman and four other members to be appointed by the President.
- ▶ The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV-FC or 15-FC) was constituted in 2017 under the chairmanship of N.K Singh.
- ▶ It is required to give recommendations for devolution of taxes and other fiscal matters for five fiscal years, commencing 1st April 2020.
- ▶ The Commission constituted an Economic Advisory Council "to advise it on matters related to its terms of reference.

### 3 GEM SAMVAAD

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has launched the 'GeM Samvaad', a national outreach Programme.

#### What is the GeM Samvaad?

- GeM Samvaad is a national outreach Programme which aims to facilitate on-boarding of local sellers on the marketplace while catering to specific requirements and procurement needs of buyers.
- The outreach programme will take place from 19 Dec 2019 to 17 Feb 2020 and will cover all the States and UTs of the country.
- It will take place with stakeholders across the country and with local sellers.

#### About GeM:

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM), launched in 2016, is the national public procurement portal offering end to end solutions for all procurement needs of Central and State Government Departments, PSUs, autonomous institutions and local bodies.
- GeM has more than 15 lakh products and around 20,000 services, more than 3 lakh registered sellers and service providers and more than 40,000 Government buyer organizations. In its short journey of three years, GeM has processed more than 28 lakh orders worth Rs. 40,000 crores in Gross Merchandise Value out of which 50% has been transacted by MSMEs.
  - State Departments and Organizations and Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) have been using GeM for their buying needs.
  - Sellers from the State are also benefitting through the access to the national Public Procurement market using the portal.
  - Through GeM Samvaad the marketplace is looking forward to receiving feedback from users which shall be used for making improvements and advancements in the system.

### 4 NATIONAL BROADBAND MISSION

The Government has launched a 'National Broadband Mission that aims to connect 600,000 villages across India at an estimated outlay of Rs 7 lakh crore including a 10% contribution from the state reserve over a period of next 3-4 years.

#### ABOUT NBM:

- The National Broadband Mission (NBM) is a part of the government's ongoing BharatNet initiative.
- The vision of the NBM is to fast track growth of digital communications infrastructure, bridge the digital divide, facilitate digital empowerment and inclusion and provide affordable and universal access of broadband for all.
- The mission has the following major objectives:
  - Broadband access to all villages by 2022
  - Facilitate access to broadband services especially in rural and remote areas
  - Laying of incremental 30 lakhs route km of Optical Fiber Cable and an increase in tower density from 0.42 to 1.0 tower per thousand of the population by 2024
  - Significantly improve the quality of services for mobile and internet

- Develop innovative implementation models for Right of Way (RoW)
- Develop a Broadband Readiness Index (BRI) to measure the availability of digital communications infrastructure and conducive policy ecosystem within a State/UT.
- Creation of a digital fiber map of the Digital Communications network and infrastructure, including Optical Fiber Cables and Towers, across the country
- Investment from stakeholders of USD 100 billion (Rs 7 Lakh Crore) including Rs 70,000 crore from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)

BharatNet is an initiative of Government of India to provide broadband services at 100 Mbps to around 2.5 lakh gram panchayats of the country. The initiative was originally started in 2011 as National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN). It was renamed as BharatNet in 2015.

## 5 SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF TWO BRAHMOS MISSILES

- Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Air Force (IAF) and BrahMos jointly successfully conducted two BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles tests, one each from land and air platforms.
  - The first missile launch was from a land-based mobile launcher, where most of the components were indigenous, including the missile airframe, fuel management system and DRDO designed seeker.
  - The second launch of the BrahMos air version missile was carried out by Indian Air force (IAF) from SU-30MKI platform against a sea target.
- Earlier on May 22, 2019, IAF had successfully tested the missile against a land-based target in the Car Nicobar Islands region. The BrahMosAir Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM) promises to bolster the air combat capability of IAF from stand-off ranges.

### **ABOUT BRAHMOS MISSILE:**

- BrahMos missile, designed and developed by BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL), is a 2.5-ton supersonic air to surface cruise missile with ranges close to 300 km.
- The BrahMos missile provides Indian Air Force with a much-desired capability to strike from large stand-off ranges on any target at sea or on land with pinpoint accuracy by day or night and in all weather conditions.
- The capability of the missile coupled with the high performance of the Su-30MKI aircraft gives the IAF a strategic reach and allows it to dominate the battlefields over land and sea.
  - The IAF became the first Air Force in the world to have successfully fired an air-launched Trisonic class surface attack missile of this category on a sea target in November 2017.
  - This was followed by a second live launch over a land target on 22 May 19.
  - The current launch was the third such live launch of the weapon and with this launch, the integration of the missile on Su-30MKI aircraft is complete.

## 6 RECYCLING OF SHIPS ACT, 2019

The Recycling of Ships Bill, 2019 has received the assent of President of India.

### Key-takeaways from the Act:

- The Recycling of Ships Act, 2019 provides for the regulation of recycling of ships by setting certain international standards and laying down the statutory mechanism for enforcement of such standards.
- **No to hazardous materials:**
  - It restricts and prohibits the use or installation of hazardous materials, which applies irrespective of whether a ship is meant for recycling or not.
  - For new ships, such restriction or prohibition on the use of hazardous materials will be immediate, while existing ships shall have a period of five years for compliance.
  - Restriction or prohibition on the use of hazardous materials would not be applied to warships and non-commercial ships operated by Government.
- **Proper authorisation for recycling:**
  - Ship recycling facilities are required to be authorized and ships shall be recycled only in such authorized ship recycling facilities.
  - This Act also provides that ships shall be recycled in accordance with a ship-specific recycling plan. Ships to be recycled in India shall be required to obtain a Ready for Recycling Certificate in accordance with the Hong Kong International Convention.
  - It imposes a statutory duty on ship recyclers to ensure safe and environmentally sound removal and management of hazardous wastes from ships.

### Hong Kong International Convention (HKC):

- The Government has also decided to accede to the Hong Kong International Convention for Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009.
- Accordingly, India has acceded to Hong Kong International Convention for Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009 on 28th November 2019.
- Accession to HKC by India and enactment of Recycling of Ships Act, 2019 will raise the profile of India's ship recycling industry as being environment-friendly and safety conscious and would go a long way in consolidating India's position as the market leader.

## 7

### TRIPURA GETS ITS FIRST SEZ

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has notified the setting up of the first-ever Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Tripura.
- The SEZ is being set-up at Paschim Jalefa, Sabroom, South Tripura District, which is 130 km away from Agartala.
- It will be a Sector-Specific Economic Zone for Agro-Based Food Processing.

Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is a geographical region that has economic laws different from a country's typical economic laws. Usually, the goal is to increase foreign investments. SEZs have been established in several countries, including China, India, Jordan, Poland, Kazakhstan, Philippines and Russia.

### SIGNIFICANCE:

- **Employment opportunities:** The SEZ is estimated to generate 12,000 skilled jobs. Rubber-based industries, textile and Apparel Industries, bamboo and Agri-food Processing Industries will be set-up in the SEZ.



- **Attracting investment:** Setting up of the SEZ in Sabroom will open up new avenues to attract private investment considering the proximity of the Chittagong Port and construction of the bridge across Feni River in South Tripura which is underway.
- **Tax exemptions:** After it is set up, 100 percent Income Tax exemption will be provided on export income for SEZ units under Section 10AA of the Income Tax Act for the first 5 years. Also, 50 percent exemption will be provided for the next 5 years and 50 percent of the ploughed back export profit for another 5 years.

## 8 INDIAN NAVY'S LARGEST ANTI-HIJACKING EXERCISE

The Indian Navy, in collaboration with Indian Coast Guard, Cochin Port Trust and all other concerned stakeholders, conducted a large scale Anti Hijacking Exercise "Apharan" off the Port of Kochi

### ABOUT APHARAN:

- The Exercise code-named "Apharan" was aimed at streamlining the response mechanism/preparedness to thwart any attempt by Anti-National Elements to hijack a merchant's vessel or attempt forced entry of a rogue/commandeered merchant vessel into Kochi harbour.
- Within the ambit of Coastal Security architecture, hijacking of a merchant's vessel is one of the challenging scenarios, response to which requires a synergy of resources, assets and efforts of all stakeholders including the State Government.

## 9 GST COUNCIL'S 38TH MEET

- The 38th meeting of the GST Council met under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The GST Council recommended the following:
  - Grievance Redressal Committees (GRC) will be constituted at Zonal/State level with both CGST and SGST officers and including representatives of trade and industry and other GST stakeholders (GST practitioners and GSTN etc.). These committees will address grievances of specific/ general nature of taxpayers at the Zonal/ State level.
  - The due date for annual return in FORM GSTR-9 and reconciliation statement in FORM GSTR-9C for FY 2017-18 to be extended to 31.01.2020.
  - Following measures would be taken to improve filing of FORM GSTR-1:
    - waiver of a late fee to be given to all taxpayers in respect of all pending FORM GSTR-1 from July 2017 to November 2019, if the same is filed by 10.01.2020.
    - E-way bill for taxpayers who have not filed their FORM GSTR-1 for two tax periods shall be blocked.
  - Input tax credit to the recipient in respect of invoices or debit notes that are not reflected in his Form GSTR-2A shall be restricted to 10 per cent of the eligible credit available in respect of invoices or debit notes reflected in his Form GSTR-2A.
  - To check the menace of fake invoices, suitable action to be taken for blocking of fraudulently availed input tax credit in certain situations.
  - A Standard Operating Procedure for tax officers would be issued in respect of action to be taken in cases of non-filing of FORM GSTR 3B returns.

- Due date of filing GST returns for the month of November 2019 to be extended in respect of a few North Eastern States.
- Various law amendments to be introduced in Budget 2020.

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### **PHASE III OF PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)**

- The Government has launched Phase III of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).
- The Phase-III of PMGSY aims at consolidation of 1,25,000 Kms Through Routes and Major Rural Links that connect habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals.
- The funding pattern for the PMGSY-III will be:
  - 60:40 between Centre and the States for States other than NE & Himalayan States
  - 90:10 for NE and Himalayan States

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), was launched by the Government of India in 2000 to provide connectivity to unconnected Habitations as part of a poverty reduction strategy. Simply put, it is a nationwide plan to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected villages.

**11**

### **INDO-RUSSIA JOINT TRI-SERVICES EXERCISE INDRA- 2019**

- The second edition of bilateral tri-services Exercise INDRA-2019 between Indian and Russia has been concluded successfully.
- Exercise INDRA-2019 included joint training in counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations under the United Nations mandate.
- As part of validation exercise, troops of both countries carried out specialised joint counter-terrorism operations.
- The exercise helped in increasing the bonhomie and camaraderie amongst both the participating nations.
- It provided an opportunity to both the Armies for greater understanding and strengthening of mutual trust and cooperation.

**12**

### **INDIA, US HELD 2+2 MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE**

- India and the United States held the '2+2' ministerial dialogue in Washington where two countries exchanged views on regional and global issues.
- This 2+2 Ministerial is the highest-level institutional mechanism between the two countries and provides for a review of the security, defence and strategic partnership between India and the United States.
- This was the second 2+2 meeting and the first in the US.

#### **Key-takeaways from the meet:**

- The two sides concluded the Industrial Security Annex during the visit.

- Priority initiatives have been identified for execution under the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) programme.
- The two sides also concluded a standard operating procedure for this process.
- These measures are expected to provide momentum to collaboration between the private defence industries of both India and the US.
- The two sides also agreed to move forward in their engagement in the area of defence innovation.

### 13 PINAKA MISSILE SYSTEM

- Pinaka Missile System developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was successfully flight-tested from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the Odisha coast.
- About Pinaka Missile System:
- The Pinaka is an Artillery Missile System capable of striking into enemy territory up to a range of 75 kilometres with high precision.
- The Pinaka MK-II Rocket is modified as a missile by integrating with the Navigation, Control and Guidance System to improve the end accuracy and enhance the range.
- The Navigation system of the missile is also aided by the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).
- The mission achieved all the objectives including enhancing the range, accuracy and sub-system functionality.
- The flight article was tracked by multiple ranges of systems viz. Telemetry, Radars, Electro-optical targeting system (EOTS), etc. which confirmed the textbook flight performance.

### 14 AFGHANISTAN FIRST COUNTRY TO RECOGNIZE INDIAN PHARMACOPOEIA

- The Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) has been recognised formally by the National Department of Regulation of Medicines and Health Products of the Ministry of Public Health of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
- It will also be used based on the requirement as reputable pharmacopoeia in the laboratory of medicines and health products quality.
- With this, a new beginning has been made and Afghanistan has become the first country to recognize IP pursuant to the efforts of the Department of Commerce and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- ▶ IP is an officially recognized book of standards as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules 1945 thereunder.
- ▶ The IP specifies the standards of drugs manufactured and marketed in India in terms of their identity, purity and strength.
- ▶ As per, the Second Schedule of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, IP is designated as the official book of standards for drugs imported and/or manufactured for sale, stock or exhibition for sale or distribution in India.

## 15 ECHO NETWORK

The Government has launched, 'EChO Network', a national program to provide a template for cross-disciplinary leadership in India with the specific focus of increasing research, knowledge, and awareness of Indian ecology and the environment.

### What is EChO Network?

- EChO Network is a national program to provide a template for cross-disciplinary leadership in India while emphasising on increasing knowledge, research and awareness of Indian ecology and the environment.
- The Network will conduct interactive sessions with citizens, industry, academia, and the government and will identify gaps in knowledge regarding human and environmental ecosystems.

### Significance of the Project:

- India faces unprecedented threats to its human environmental and ecosystems, solving which requires a confluence of India's strong technical expertise and knowledge of the natural world itself.
- EChO Network would develop a national network to catalyse a new generation of Indians who can synthesize interdisciplinary concepts and tackle real-world problems in medicine, agriculture, ecology, and technology.
- With no precedent for such a network anywhere in the world, EChO Network establishes a new platform to change how science is embedded in our modern society.

## 16 NAGPUR RESOLUTION

- The 'Nagpur Resolution- A holistic approach for empowering citizens' was adopted during the Valedictory session of the two-day Regional Conference on 'Improving Public Service Delivery – Role of Governments', in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- The Resolution aims to achieve the following objectives:
  - To empower the citizens by policy interventions for better service delivery through timely updation of citizens charters, implementation of enactments and benchmarking standards for continuous improvement;
  - To empower citizens by adopting a bottom-up approach to bring massive improvements in quality of grievance redressal and reduction in timelines of grievance redressal;
  - To adopt a holistic approach of systemic public grievance reforms through improved mapping, formulation of monitoring matrix, data collection and evaluation in quality of grievance redressal;
  - To provide an enabling environment for States and Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India for creating web portals and to adopt a holistic approach for improved service delivery through digital platforms;
  - To focus on dynamic policy-making and strategic decisions, monitoring of implementation, the appointment of key personnel, coordination and evaluation;
  - To achieve a sense of common identity by the exchange of technical expertise in the areas of Improved Service Delivery between the paired States under the Ek Bharat – Shrestha Bharat Program;
  - To work towards long-term engagements in the areas of Improved Service Delivery for Empowering Citizens through greater cooperation between the DARPG and the participating States and,

- To ensure timely publication of Good Governance Index to identify the quality of governance in 10 sectors especially those pertaining to welfare and infrastructure at the Union, State and District levels.

## 17 CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

In a landmark decision with tremendous reform in higher defence management in the country, the Union Cabinet has approved to create the post of Chief of Defence Staff in the rank of a four-star General.

### What is Chief of Defence Staff?

- The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is a post that will act as the single-point advisor to the Government of India. The officer concerned will be in a position to advise on matters related to all the three services:
  - Army
  - Navy
  - Air Force
- The Chief of Defence Staff will be a 'first among equals', a fourth four-star officer who will be senior to the three other service chiefs.
- The Chief of Defence Staff will also head the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), to be created within the Ministry of Defence and function as its Secretary.

### Areas to be dealt:

- The Armed Forces of the Union, namely, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force
- Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence comprising Army Headquarters, Naval Headquarters, Air Headquarters and Defence Staff Headquarters
- The Territorial Army
- Works relating to the Army, the Navy and the Air Force
- Procurement exclusive to the Services except for capital acquisitions, as per prevalent rules and procedures.

## 18 ROHTANG PASS TO BE RENAMED AFTER FORMER PRIME MINISTER ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

Cabinet has approved Strategic Tunnel under Rohtang Pass to be renamed after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

### Quick facts on the tunnel:

- The 8.8kilometre-long tunnel is the world's longest tunnel above an altitude of 3,000 metres.
- It is a 10.5-metre wide single tube bi-lane tunnel with a fireproof emergency egress tunnel built into the main tunnel itself.
- It will reduce the distance between Manali and Leh by 46 kilometres and save crores of rupees in transport costs
- The foundation stone for the Access Road to the South Portal of the tunnel was laid on May 26, 2002.

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) worked relentlessly to overcome major geological, terrain and weather challenges that included the most difficult stretch of the 587-metre Seri Nalah Fault Zone.
- The breakthrough from both ends was achieved on October 15, 2017.
- The tunnel is now nearing completion and is a step in the direction of providing all-weather connectivity to remote border areas of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh which otherwise remained cut off from the rest of the country for about six months during winters.

**19****ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA**

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the implementation of the Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL), a Central Sector Scheme to be implemented over a period of 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25).
- The scheme aims to improve groundwater management through community participation in identified priority areas in seven States, viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- ATAL JAL will promote panchayat led groundwater management and behavioural change with a primary focus on demand-side management
- ATAL JAL has two major components:
  - Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building Component for strengthening institutional arrangements for sustainable groundwater management in the States including improving monitoring networks, capacity building, strengthening of Water User Associations, etc.
  - Incentive Component for incentivising the States for achievements in improved groundwater management practices namely, data dissemination, preparation of water security plans, implementation of management interventions through the convergence of ongoing schemes, adopting demand-side management practices etc.

**The water crisis in India:**

- Groundwater contributes to nearly 65% of the total irrigated area of the country and nearly 85% of the rural drinking water supply.
- The limited groundwater resources in the country are under threat due to the increasing demands of growing population, urbanization and industrialization.
- Intensive and unregulated groundwater pumping in many areas has caused a rapid and widespread decline in groundwater levels as well as a reduction in the sustainability of groundwater abstraction structures.
- The problem of reduction in groundwater availability is further compounded by deteriorating groundwater quality in some parts of the country.
- The increasing stress on groundwater due to overexploitation, contamination and associated environmental impacts threaten to endanger the food security of the nation unless necessary preventive/remedial measures are taken on priority.

**20****GOOD GOVERNANCE INDEX**

- The government has launched the 'Good Governance Index' on the occasion of Good Governance Day.
- The Good Governance Day is observed on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

### About the Index:

- The Good Governance Index is a uniform tool across the States to assess the Status of Governance and impact of various interventions taken up by the State Government and UTs.
- The objectives of GGI are to provide quantifiable data to compare the state of governance in all states and UTs, enable states and UTs to formulate and implement suitable strategies for improving governance and shift to result-oriented approaches and administration.

### Key-findings of the index:

- The southern state of Tamil Nadu has bagged the top position in the composite ranking for good governance index (GGI), followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- Chhattisgarh has got the fourth position, followed by Andhra Pradesh (fifth), Gujarat (sixth), Haryana (seventh) and Kerala at the eight ranks.
- The states and union territories have been divided into three groups -- big states, north-east and hill states, and union territories -- for the rankings based on certain indicators separately.
  - Madhya Pradesh is at the ninth rank, West Bengal at the tenth position, followed by Telangana (11th), Rajasthan (12th), Punjab (13th), Orissa (14th), Bihar (15th), Goa (16th), Uttar Pradesh (17th) and Jharkhand at eighteen positions in the big states category.
  - In the north-east and hill category, Himachal Pradesh has topped the ranking followed by Uttarakhand, Tripura, Mizoram, Sikkim, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir (now divided into two union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh), Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
  - Among the union territories, Pondicherry has got the first position, followed by Chandigarh, Delhi, Daman and Diu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep.

**21**

## INDIAN RAILWAY'S PASSENGER INFORMATION SYSTEM

- Indian Railways introduced a new Passenger Information System at Anakapalle Railway Station of Vijayawada Division in South Central Railway.
- The Passenger Information system comprises both "At a Glance Display Board" (which gives a glance of the status of various train timings at the Station) and "Coach Guidance Display Board" (which provides the Coach Composition position of a train). The objective of this application is to provide better features and easy guidance to the passengers and thereby providing satisfactory user experience.
- In the new Passenger Information System provided at Anakapalle Station, new technology has been adopted by which the estimated arrival of the trains at the station is taken based on the real-time location of the trains.
- This is done by taking continuously updated data sourced automatically from the Centralized Railway Information System (CRIS) server from time to time.
- The system provides automated display information about the trains expected at the station in the next two hours in Trilingual form i.e. Telugu, English and Hindi.
- In addition, the system also provides a facility for the operator to modify the data instantly in case of any emergencies.

**22**

## TEJAS EXPRESS ON AHMEDABAD-MUMBAI ROUTE

After the successful run of Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express, the second premium Tejas train is ready to run between Ahmedabad and Mumbai.

**Salient features of the train are as under:**

- Complimentary Onboard infotainment services will be available in IRCTC trains to the passengers.
- High-quality food and beverages will be provided to the passengers on board in the train and included in the ticket fare.
- Service in the train will be done through trolleys similar to airlines. Each coach will be provided with an RO water filter in addition to the packaged drinking water bottle for each passenger.
- All passengers travelling on IRCTC train will be provided with Rail Travel Insurance of up to Rs. 25 Lakhs, free of cost by IRCTC. This complimentary travel insurance also includes exclusive coverage of Rs. 1 lakh against household theft/robbery during the travel period of the passengers.
- Besides, this special feature, in a first of its own, IRCTC will also pay a compensation of Rs. 100/- in case the train during its run, is delayed by more than one hour and Rs. 250/- in case of delay of more than two hours to every passenger as compensation.
- In case of cancellation of the train, an automatic full refund of full fare on confirmed and /or waitlisted e-tickets will be made. There will be no need of cancelling the ticket or filing TDR in such case
- There will be no tatkal quota or premium tatkal quota in the train. There will be only General Quota and Foreign Tourist Quota. Foreign Tourist Quota of 6 seats in EC and 12 seats in CC will be available for Foreign Tourists.

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