

SHANMUGAM IAS ACADEMY



TNPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS

JANUARY 11, 2019

TATA STEEL'S IJMUIDEN PLANT RECOGNISED AS 'MANUFACTURING LIGHTHOUSE'

The **World Economic Forum** on announced that **Tata Steel's plant at IJmuiden in the Netherlands** has been inducted into its prestigious community, a distinction awarded to manufacturing facilities which are **seen as leaders in technologies of the 'Fourth Industrial Revolution'**.

Assessing more than 1,000 factories in 2018, the WEF recognised Tata Steel's IJmuiden plant and six others as **'Manufacturing Lighthouses' – state-of-the-art production facilities** which successfully adopt and integrate the cutting-edge technologies of the future and drive financial and operational impact.

To aid the learning and adoption of technologies by other companies, the 'Lighthouse' companies are committed to open their doors and share their knowledge with other manufacturing businesses.

Tata Steel's site at IJmuiden has been **lauded for its pioneering use of advanced analytics to optimise the way raw materials** are used, **increase the yield at every step of the steelmaking process** and further improve logistics between the different processes and the quality of the product for customers.

In 2017 the World Economic Forum set up a network of leading intelligent production companies ('Lighthouses') under its **'Shaping the Future of Production'** initiative to allow the **exchange of knowledge and promote collaborations** in the area of the **'Fourth Industrial Revolution'** in production.

WEST BENGAL EXITS AYUSHMAAN BHARAT SCHEME

West bengal government headed by Mamata Bannerjee decided to opt out of Ayushmaan bharat scheme citing that the Prime minister is taking all the credit for its implementation.

She said her government was compelled to take the decision after it found that the Centre had been sending letters to lakhs of beneficiaries in the state with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's picture on it, claiming credit for the scheme.

The programme is funded by the Centre and the state in a 60-40 ratio. "I opt out of the scheme. You (Modi) pay the entire amount. I will not pay anything. When you claim sole credit for the scheme, it's your duty to pay the whole amount," Mamata said.

"Being in the state government, we play our role properly by paying our contributions for health, panchayat works, agriculture and many other schemes. But you play the role of a middleman," the chief minister added.

Ayushman Bharat is National Health Protection Scheme, which will cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) providing coverage upto 5 lakh rupees per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission will subsume the on-going centrally sponsored schemes - Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).

Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission will have a defined benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year.

- Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country and a beneficiary covered under the scheme will be allowed to take cashless benefits from any public/private empanelled hospitals across the country.
- Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission will be an entitlement based scheme with entitlement decided on the basis of deprivation criteria in the SECC database.
- The beneficiaries can avail benefits in both public and empanelled private facilities.

PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT IN MUMBAI

The **25th edition of Partnership Summit 2019**, a global platform for dialogue, debate, deliberation and engagement among Indian and global leaders on economic policy and growth trends in India, is being held in Mumbai from tomorrow.

The Summit is expected to build new partnerships and explore investment opportunities through high level exchanges and B2B meetings.

This edition of the Summit, on 12th and 13th January 2019, will **showcase India in the present landscape of an emerging “New India”, the “New Global Economic Address”**. The Summit is being organized by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, State Government of Maharashtra and Confederation of Indian Industry.

The themes of the sessions in the two days of the Summit will cover topics like:

Partnering with New India

Reforms and De-regulation – Strategies to Boost Investment

The Infra Expanse – A Super Imperative for Growth

The Inclusion Dynamics – A Digital Wireframe for all

PANEL TO REFORM COMPETITIVE EXAMS

The Supreme Court has suggested setting up of a **three-member panel** comprising of **Nandan Nilekani**, a co-founder of Infosys, and renowned computer scientist **Vijay P Bhatkar** to suggest reforms for conducting of competitive examinations fairly by government bodies.

- To overall the structure of conducting competitive exams by the government agencies and to bring in transparency, the SC has suggested setting up of a three-member panel to suggest reforms.

The Supreme Court has asked advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioner, to suggest a name besides Nilekani and Bhatkar for constituting the panel.

The **petitioner Shantantu Kumar had sought cancellation of 2017 SSC examination due to alleged tampering and leaking of question papers**. The Supreme Court has put a stay on the declaration of results of SSC 2017 examinations.

The allegations of tampering and leaking of question papers had led to large scale protests from the aspirants. The SSC had recommended the CBI investigation in the case.

NEW AIIMS

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the setting up of three new AIIMS institutions. The three new institutions would come up at Vijaynagar at Samba of Jammu Region, Awantipora in Pulwama of Kashmir Region and Rajkot in Gujarat under the pradhan mantri swasthya suraksha yojana.

The **two new AIIMS for Jammu and Kashmir**, one each for Jammu Region and Kashmir Region was announced by the Prime Minister under the Prime Minister's Development Package and the **AIIMS in Rajkot, Gujarat** was announced by the Finance Minister in his budget speech.

PRIME MINISTER'S DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE

Prime Minister's Development Package was announced as a **reconstruction plan for J&K**.

The Reconstruction **Plan aims at expanding economic infrastructure, expanding provision of basic services, providing thrust to employment and income generation and providing relief and rehabilitation to the victims of September 2014 floods** and to strengthen Disaster Management Framework of the State.

- The reconstruction plan also **seeks to strengthen the economic and social infrastructure and provide for the balanced development of the three regions of J&K**.

CURRENCY SWAP AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN APPROVED

The Union Cabinet Thursday approved a proposal for a USD **75-billion bilateral swap arrangement between India and Japan**, a move aimed at **enhancing the RBI's ability to manage exchange rate volatility**.

In a release, the government said the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for entering into an agreement for the **bilateral swap arrangement (BSA) between India and Japan**.

The arrangement authorises the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **to sign the agreement for bilateral swap arrangement between the RBI and the Bank of Japan for a maximum amount of USD 75 billion**.

This facility will enable the agreed amount of capital being available to India on tap for use.

Also, with this arrangement in place, prospects of Indian companies would improve in tapping foreign capital as there would be greater confidence in stability of country's exchange rate.

CURRENCY SWAP AGREEMENTS

A Currency swap agreement is **a foreign exchange agreement between two parties to exchange a given amount of one currency for another and, after a specified period of time, to give back the original amounts swapped**.

4TH EDITION OF RAISINA DIALOGUE

From 8th January to 10th January 2019, 4th Edition of Raisina Dialogue was organized by Ministry of External Affairs **in partnership with Observer Research Foundation** in New Delhi.

The **Theme** of the Dialogue was **"A World Reorder: New Geometries; Fluid Partnerships; Uncertain Outcomes"**.

INDIA'S LONGEST SINGLE LANE STEEL CABLE SUSPENSION BRIDGE

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated **India's longest 300-meter single-lane steel cable suspension bridge over Siang River in Upper Siang district of state bordering China**.

The suspension bridge, also known as **Byorong Bridge** was built at a cost of Rs 4,843 crore and funded by the ministry of development of North Eastern Region under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources scheme.

It will **reduce the distance from Yingkiong to Tuting town** by almost 40 km.

5 JUDGE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW RAM JANMA BHOOMI CASE

Supreme court of india was supposed to hear the oldest case in the indian history Ram Janmabhoomi -Babri Masjid case.The case came in front of the 5 judge committee set by Our chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.

The five members are as follows Justice Ranjan gogoi, SA Bobde,NV Raman,Uday U Lalit and DY Chandrachud.

HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX

According to Henley Passport Index, which keeps in record and analyses of every country's travel afford revealed a report of powerful passport holding country, in which **Japan has retained its position to the top** for the consecutive year due to access the document's access to 190 countries and **India** has leaped two steps forward to **79th rank from 81st rank**.A total of 190 countries are analyzed here.

JAPAN – 1st

INDIA – 79TH

DRDO RECEIVES EXHIBITOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) pavilion received '**Exhibitor of the Year Award**' at **106th Indian Science Congress in Punjab**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) pavilion received 'Exhibitor of the Year Award' at 106th Indian Science Congress **held at Lovely Professional University (LPU), Phagwara, Punjab.**

DRDO's outdoor exhibits included surface-to-air missile system – Akash, model of BrahMos missile, remotely operated vehicle – Daksh, heavy weight torpedo – Varunastra, Laser Ordnance Disposal System (LORDS) and Vehicle Mounted Dazzler etc.

MARY KOM TOPS AIBA RANKINGS

M C Mary Kom attained the first position in the latest ranking released by the International Boxing Association (AIBA) in the Light Fly 45-48 kilograms category **with 1700 points**.

Ukraine's Hanna Okhoto ranked **number 2** in the ranking released by AIBA with 1100 points.

Mary Kom has already achieved the feat to become the **first woman boxer to win six world championship**.

