

GENERAL AWARENESS

10% quota got assent

President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to a bill providing 10% reservation to the economically weaker sections in the general category on 12th January 2019.

The Constitution (124th Amendment) Bill, 2019 was passed by the Parliament during the winter session. To this effect a notification issued said that the legislation will be known as the Constitution (103 Amendment) Act, 2019 and that it shall come into force on such date as the Centre notifies.

The Act amends Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution, by adding a clause which allows states to make "special provision for the advancement of any economically weaker sections of citizens".

Annual income below Rs.8 Lakhs, agricultural land below five acre, a house below 1,000 sq ft or Plot sizes etc. are some of the parameters to get this reservation.

Gandhi Peace Prize - 2018

Gandhi Peace Prize for 2018 conferred on Yohei Sasakawa, who is the Goodwill Ambassador of the World Health Organisation for Leprosy Elimination.

The Peace prize announced to him in the recognition of his work towards the eradication of leprosy disease in India and across the world.

The award was instituted by the Government of India in 1995 during the commemoration of 125th Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The title winners would receive a cash prize of Rs.1 crore.

The jury under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister also declared Gandhi prize for 2017 to Ekal Abhiyan Trust for their contribution in providing Education for Rural and Tribal Children in remote areas pan India, Rural Empowerment, Gender and Social Equality.

Kumbh Mela

One of the largest religious gatherings in the world - the Kumbh Mela commenced on 15th January 2019 on Makar Sankranti at Prayag Raj in Uttar Pradesh. The crores of devotees, saints including nagasadhus take holy bath in Triveni Sangam (the confluence of the holy rivers Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati).

12 crore people are expected to attend Kumbh Mela. The UP government has allocated Rs 4,200 crore. The area of Kumbh Mela also been doubled to 3,200 hectares as compared to 1,600 hectares in the previous Melas. The mela ended by Maha Shivrathri.

The state government made extensive arrangements. The technology extensively using for the safety of devotees like virtual reality (VR), Artificial Intelligence (AI) Global Positioning System (GPS) and an Integrated Control Command and Centre (ICCC) had been set up at the prime locations in the Kumbh Mela area.

ASEAN-India Tourism meeting

7th Meeting of Tourism Ministers of ASEAN-India was held in Ha Long City in Viet Nam. The meeting launched ASEAN-India Tourism Cooperation Year 2019.

During the meeting, ministers noted the improved tourism performance of ASEAN and India in 2018 with the increase of 7.4 % in arrival of tourists in ASEAN and India. The Preliminary number of tourist arrival stands at 139.5 million.

The Ministers meeting agreed to further enhance ASEAN-India cooperation in tourism under the framework of the '2012 Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and India.

Union Tourism Minister K. J. Alphons, co-chaired this meeting.

Youngest Grandmaster

12 year old Tamilnadu boy D Gukesh became the youngest Grandmaster in India and second in the world.

He achieved his third and final GM norm at the 17th Delhi International Open Chess tournament in Delhi after beating compatriot D K Sharma in the ninth round.

Gukesh becomes India's 59th Grandmaster.

UNCCD COP-14

India will host "14th session of the Conference of Parties to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification" (UNCCD COP-14) to address the issue of land degradation and desertification.

This conference of the UNCCD, which has 197 parties participation from over 100 countries, is likely to be held in October 2019 in India.

UNCCD working towards maintaining and restoring land and soil productivity and mitigating the effects of drought.

India is committed to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030 and by hosting the COP-14, our nation aims to showcase its role as a leader in addressing the land agenda.

One Family, One Job

On January 12th, 2019, Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling launched the 'One Family One Job' scheme, under which for every family one government job has been allotted. New recruits were taken for Group C and Group D posts in 12 departments.

He also announced that over 25,000 already employed but unregularised government employees would also be subsequently regularised within 2019.

Thus, Sikkim became the first state in the country to carry out such a programme for the people entitling them to state government employee benefits.

Debt-waiver Scheme

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath on 15th January 2019 launched Rs 50,000-crore farm debt-waiver scheme named 'Jai Kisan Rin Mukti Yojana'.

On 5th January 2019, the state cabinet decided to waive crop loans of 55 lakh farmers, while extending the eligibility cut-off date to December 12th, 2018 from March 31st, 2018.

Farmers who have registered themselves to pay GST and are paying income tax, cannot avail benefits under this scheme.

MODEL QUESTIONS

- Which state became the first state to implement the 10% quota reserved for people from economically weaker sections proposed under the 103rd constitutional amendment act?
 - 1) Haryana
 - 2) Himachal Pradesh
 - 3) Gujarat
 - 4) Assam
 - 5) Tamil nadu
- Union Government announced increase in seats across educational institutions to ensure that the 10% recently given to the Economically Backward Section (EWS) does not disturb existing quotas for the SC, ST and OBC.
 - 1) 25%
 - 2) 40%
 - 3) 10%
 - 4) 5%
 - 5) 75%

3. World TB day is?
- 1) 7th April 2) 25th April 3) 24th March 4) 21st May
5) 31st May
4. The Gandhi Peace Prize 2015 conferred on Vivekananda Kendra having base at for their contribution in Rural Development, Education and Development of natural resources.
- 1) Hyderabad 2) Patna
3) Bhubaneswar 4) Chennai
5) Kanyakumari
5. Kumbh Mela is celebrated four times over a course of?
- 1) 12 years 2) 12 months 3) 1200 years 4) 18 years
5) 14 years
6. The Kumbh Mela rotate in four Places. They are Haridwar, Ujjain, Prayagraj and?
- 1) Ayodya 2) Dwaraka 3) Varanasi 4) Gaya
5) Nashik
7. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration announced that the in Port Blair will be an authorized Immigration Check post.
- 1) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport.
2) Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel International Airport.
3) Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport.
4) Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport.
5) Veer Savarkar International Airport.
8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Development of Spiritual Circuit Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple-Aranmula-Sabarimala in?
- 1) Kerala 2) Karnataka
3) Andhra Pradesh 4) Uttar Pradesh
5) Tamilnadu
9. Sergey Karjakin of which nation is the world's youngest Grand master?
- 1) Russia 2) Poland 3) Italy 4) Ukraine
5) Uzbekistan
10. On 17th December 2018, the Indian Armed Forces inaugurated Tri Services Cycling and Trekking Expedition in?
- 1) Himachal Pradesh 2) Haryana
3) Jammu and Kashmir 4) Uttarakhand
5) Sikkim
11. Where is the Pakyong Airport?
- 1) Manipur 2) Meghalaya
3) Sikkim 4) Arunachal Pradesh
5) Tripura

12. Madhya Pradesh Government has conferred the annual Tansen Samman to which Sitar Player for her contribution in the field of Hindustani music?

1) Arun Bhaduri

2) Anindita Neogy Anaam

3) Manju Mehta

4) Usha Timothy

5) Anoushka Shankar

13. Which state announced setting up of a new Adhyatmik Vibhag (spiritual department) by merging several existing departments?

1) UP

2) AP

3) MP

4) Goa

5) Delhi

KEY

1-3; 2-1; 3-3; 4-5; 5-1; 6-5; 7-5; 8-1; 9-4; 10-5; 11-3; 12-3; 13-3.

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