

## CIVIL SERVICE DIGEST (CSD-Daily)

*November 21, 2018*

### **First death sentence over deadly 1984 anti-Sikh riots**

- A court here on Tuesday sentenced one person to death and awarded life imprisonment to his co-convict for killing two during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. The killings had taken place at Mahipalpur in south Delhi.
- The riots had broken out across the capital following the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

### **Anti Sikh Riots 1984**

- Due to the orders of Indira Gandhi, Indian Army launched its offensive against Sikh militants at the Golden Temple in Amritsar under the code name “Operation Blue Star”.
- The army was successful in driving out the militants from the Sikh’s sacred place, but this event angered the Sikh People and their sentiments got hurt.
- To avenge this action, bodyguards of Mrs. Gandhi killed her at her own house.
- Later the angry congress workers and supporters allegedly began their brutal actions of killing innocent Sikh People in the country; Delhi was the most affected area during anti Sikh riots.

- Union Government appointed so many commissions to enquire about the guilty people and to find out their masterminds, but nothing concrete came out of such commissions.
- The kith and kin of the victims of Anti-Sikh riots are still waiting to get the justice after 30 years of the incident.

### **Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) Program**

- Union HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar through video conferencing launched the 'Institution's Innovation Council (IIC)' program under Innovation cell of MHRD in New Delhi.
- Ministry of Human Resource Development has established an "Innovation cell" at AICTE with a purpose to systematically foster the culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country.

#### ***Details***

- It is a significant step in institutionalizing innovation and developing a scientific temperament in the country.
- The purpose of formation of network of Institution's Innovation Councils (IICs) is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas and processes resulting in innovative activities in their formative years.
- More than 1000 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have already formed IICs in their campuses and enrolled for the IIC network managed by MHRD's Innovation cell to promote innovation through multitudinous modes leading to an innovation promotion eco-system in their campuses.

#### ***What was the need of the Program?***

- Universities are the main research centers of developed countries and because of their research they are at the top in global innovation ranking

- So setting up of research centers through ‘Institution’s Innovation Council (IIC) program, India is expecting to improve its ranking on the Global scale.
- So in order to give boost to it the educational advancement in higher education can only be achieved by encouraging best practices in innovation and advance research and Innovation Cell has undertaken many initiatives in this direction such as implementing programs like Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievement (ARIIA), Smart India Hackathon (SIH)- 2019, etc.

### **NASI- Scopus Young Scientist Awards 2018**

- Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu presented the **National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI)** and Elsevier awards 2018 aimed at promoting scientific excellence among youngsters, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

#### ***About:***

- The Scopus Young Scientist Awards, first launched by Elsevier in 2006, is part of an Elsevier’s global initiative to support early career researchers in their quest to advance the frontiers of science across a broad range of disciplines. In 2009, India officially adopted the program within its scientific community through Elsevier’s collaboration with The National Academy of Sciences, India
- The program honours outstanding young researchers in India who are building their careers in academic research, helping them gain recognition for their work. As of 2017, 101 winners across nine scientific disciplines have been announced.

- This year NASI Scopus Awards has introduced 5 multi-disciplinary categories that are aligned with national missions of Make in India, Digital India, Healthy India and Clean India.
- These awards are given in five categories – Women in Science, agriculture, Plant Sciences and Rural Development, Environmentally Sound Sustainable Development, Biomedical Research and Healthcare and Innovation in Engineering and Physical Sciences.

**India slips two places to 53<sup>rd</sup> Position on Global talent ranking:  
Switzerland on top**

On 20th November 2018, India has slipped two places to rank 53<sup>rd</sup> Position in Global Annual talent ranking released by renowned IMD Business School, Switzerland on 20 November 2018. Switzerland retained the top Position for the fifth consecutive year. Denmark attained 2nd rank, while Norway attained 3rd Rank.



Key

**Points:**

- i. India ranked at 51<sup>st</sup> Position in 2017.

ii. Singapore also topped the Asia region with 13<sup>th</sup> Rank while China is ranked 39<sup>th</sup>.

iii. India ranked 30<sup>th</sup> Position in Readiness factor but lags in Investment and Development factor in which it ranked below average 63<sup>rd</sup> rank.

### **High rate of acquittals seen under SC/ST Act 1989:**

- The high rate of acquittals seen under the Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989 is not because the cases are false or malafide. It is because of the failure of the police and the prosecution to render justice to a section of society which has suffered social stigma, poverty and humiliation for centuries, the Centre told the Supreme Court.
- The government was explaining its decision to enact the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018.

### **Background of the issue**

- On March 20, 2018 the Supreme Court issued a slew of guidelines to protect people against arbitrary arrests under the Act, directing that public servants could be arrested only with the written permission of their appointing authority, while in the case of private employees, the Senior Superintendent of Police concerned should allow it.
- A preliminary inquiry should be conducted before the FIR was registered to check if the case fell within the ambit of the Act, and whether it was frivolous or motivated, the court ruled.
- The ruling was greeted by a storm of protest from Dalit groups, which said the order diluted the law. However, the court refused to stay its ruling, leading to

the demand from Dalit groups that the government introduce an ordinance or an Amendment Bill to restore the provisions.

### **About SC/ST Act 1989**

- The SC/ST Act lists 22 offences relating to various patterns or behaviours inflicting criminal offences and breaking the self-respect and esteem of the scheduled castes and tribes community. This includes denial of economic, democratic and social rights, discrimination, exploitation and abuse of the legal process.
- According to the SC/ST Act, the protection is provided from social disabilities such as denial of access to certain places and to use customary passage, personal atrocities like forceful drinking or eating of inedible food sexual exploitation, injury etc, atrocities affecting properties, malicious prosecution, political disabilities and economic exploitation.
- For speedy trial, Section 14 of the SC/ST Act provides for a Court of Session to be a Special Court to try offences under this Act in each district.
- The prime objective of the SC/ST Act is to deliver justice to marginalised through proactive efforts, giving them a life of dignity, self-esteem and a life without fear, violence or suppression from the dominant castes.

### **36 Ekalavya model residential schools to be set up in Meghalaya: Tribal Affairs Minister Oram**

- **On 17th November,2018,Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Jual Oram** announced setting up of 36 Ekalavya Model Residential Schools(EMRS) in Meghalaya at a cost of **Rs.20 crore** for each school in 36 Blocks of Meghalaya.

- “Every block with **more than 50 per cent ST population and at least 20,000 tribal people**, will have an Ekalavya Model Residential School by 2022,” the Minister said. The total project cost will be around Rs.720 crores.

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**Key points:**

- i. The central government plans to build over **500** such schools across India. At present, there are **192** such schools all over the country.
- ii. These schools will be on par with Navodaya Vidyalayas and will have special facilities for preserving local art and culture besides providing training in sports and skill development.

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**Indo-US joint military exercise ‘Vajra Prahar’ begin in Jaipur**

- **On November 19 2018 ‘Vajra Prahar’**, a 12-day long joint military exercise between India and the United States was started in Jaipur.



i. US contingent comprises of an United States Pacific Commander and 10 other ranks from the Special Forces Group arrived at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges on November 18 and informed **Rajasthan Defence PRO Lt Col Sombhit Ghosh** for undertaking Joint training with the Indian Special Forces.

ii. Both forces train on different aspects including hostage rescue, building intervention, desert survival, medical aid and combat firing and also undertake a three-day outdoor exercise to validate their practices.

### **P.M Modi laid foundation of India's first Sri Vishwakarma Skill Development University in Palwal, Haryana**

On 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation of **India's first Sri Vishwakarma Skill Development University** in **Palwal** district of **Haryana**.



## **Maldives Cabinet approves to rejoin Commonwealth, 2 year after withdrawing from 53-nation grouping**

On 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Maldives new President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih made the announcement that Maldives Cabinet approves re-joining of Commonwealth after 2 year of withdrawal.



- i.** Maldives had left commonwealth in 2016 under the leadership of former President Abdulla Yameen amid speculations of corruption and fraud.
- ii.** The Proposal has been sent to the Maldives parliament for ratification.