



इशोइशा

I A S A C A D E M Y

Your Dreams, Our Mission!

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 04 FEB 2019

GS-1

Bharat Rang Mahotsav

Why in News?

The 20th edition of Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM), the international theatre festival of India, is organized by National School of Drama (NSD), one of the prominent training institutions in the world.

The Journey of Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM)

- Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM), the annual international theatre festival of India is organized by the National School of Drama (NSD), was established two decades ago to stimulate the growth and development of theatre across India.
- Originally a national festival showcasing the work of the most creative theatre workers in India, BRM has evolved to international scope, hosting theatre groups from around the world, and is now the largest theatre festival of Asia.
- Till date, BRM was celebrated in New Delhi and has travelled to several cities in India, presenting an overwhelming 1787 plays, and riveted thousands of audiences who basked in the glory of heart-winning stories and superior performances.
- The 20th BRM comes with 111 national and international acts in its basket that includes folk and other traditional theatre forms, invitee plays, and productions by the students of the National School of Drama.

About NSD:

- The National School of Drama (NSD) is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.
- It was set up by the Sangeet Natak Akademi as one of its constituent units in 1959. In 1975, it became an independent entity and was registered as an



शोइश

I A S A C A D E M Y

Your Dreams, Our Mission!

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 04 FEB 2019

autonomous organization under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, fully financed by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

- Training in the School is highly intensive and is based on a thorough, comprehensive, carefully planned syllabus which covers every aspect of theatre and in which theory is related to practice.
- As a part of their training, students are required to produce plays which are then performed before the public.

GS-2

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (P.M. Kissan)

What is it?

To provide an assured income support to the small and marginal farmers, Government is launching a historic programme namely "**Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)**".

About the Programme:

- Under this programme, vulnerable landholding farmer families, having cultivable land upto 2 hectares, will be provided direct income support at the rate of Rs 6,000 per year.
- This income support will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiary farmers, in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 each.
- This programme will be funded by Government of India.
- Around 12 crore small and marginal farmer families are expected to benefit from this.
- The programme would be made effective from 1st December 2018 and the first installment for the period upto 31st March 2019 would be paid during this year itself. This programme will entail an annual expenditure of Rs 75,000 crore.



इशोरइश
IAS ACADEMY
Your Dreams, Our Mission!

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 04 FEB 2019

Other Govt. Initiative for Farmers:

- Rashtriya Gokul Mission has been started for the first time in the country by Government to promote the country's cattle and buffaloes, to preserve their genetic resources in scientific and holistic form and for continuous growth in the productivity of Indian bovine.
- The "Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog" has been established to upscale sustainable genetic up-gradation of cow resources and to enhance production and productivity of cows.
- Through Kisan Credit Card, the government provides institutional credit at cheap rates to farmers.
- This not only helps in increasing agricultural production but also productivity.
- In the interest subvention scheme, farmers are given short-term loan up to Rs 3 lakh per annum by banks on timely payment of loan at the rate of 4%.
- Presently, the crop loans are rescheduled for such affected farmers and they get benefit of interest subvention of 2% only for the first year of the rescheduled loan. Now, all farmers affected by severe natural calamities, where assistance is provided from National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF), will be provided the benefit of interest subvention of 2% and prompt repayment incentive of 3% for the entire period of rescheduling of their loans.

Budget Highlights:

Union Finance Minister Piyush Goyal presented an Interim Budget for 2019 in Parliament on Friday. An Interim Budget usually doesn't list out new schemes or doesn't unveil any policy measures. The government will present the vote on account for the next four-to-five months. A full-fledged Budget will be presented after the House reassembles after the general election.

- No income tax for earnings up to ₹5 lakh
- Individuals with gross income of up to ₹6.5 lakh need not pay any tax if they make investments in provident funds and prescribed equities



इशोरइशवा

I A S A C A D E M Y

Your Dreams, Our Mission!

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 04 FEB 2019

- Standard tax deduction for salaried persons raised from ₹40,000 to ₹50,000
- TDS threshold on interest on bank and post office deposits raised from ₹10,000 to ₹40,000
- TDS threshold on rental income increased from ₹1.8 lakh to ₹2.4 lakh
- I-T processing of returns to be done in 24 hours
- Within the next 2 years, all verification of tax returns to be done electronically without any interface with the taxpayer
- Package of ₹6000 per annum for farmers with less than 2 hectares of land. Scheme to be called Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi.
- [Vande](#) Bharat Express, an indigenously developed semi high-speed train, to be launched
- One lakh digital villages planned in the next five years
- Fund allocation for the Northeast region increased to ₹ 58,166 crore, a 21% rise over last year for infrastructure development
- Anti-camcord regulations to be introduced in the Indian Cinematograph Act to prevent piracy and contact theft of Bollywood films.
- Single window clearance for Indian filmmakers.
- 25 per cent of sourcing for government projects will be from the MSMEs, of which three per cent will be from women entrepreneurs.
- National Artificial Intelligence portal to be developed soon
- ESI cover limit increased to ₹ 21,000. Minimum pension also increased to ₹ 1000.
- Mega pension scheme for workers in the organised sector with an income of less than ₹15,000. They will be able to earn ₹ 3000 after the age of 60. The scheme will be called Pradhan Mantri Shramyogi Maan Dhan Yojana.
- 2% interest subvention for farmers pursuing animal husbandry.
- All farmers affected by severe natural calamities to get 2% interest subvention and additional 3% interest subvention upon timely repayment
- Decision taken to increase MSP (minimum support price) by 1.5 times the production cost for all 22 crops



शोइशा
I A S A C A D E M Y
Your Dreams, Our Mission!

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 04 FEB 2019

- The 22nd AIIMS to come up in Haryana

About the Budget:

What is a budget and what does it consist of?

- A Budget is an estimate of outflows and inflows that a Government will incur during a financial year. It consists of actual figures for the preceding year and the budgetary estimate for the current year. For instance, a Budget presented in March 2012 will have the preceding year, i.e. 2011-12's actual figures and the estimates for 2012-13.

When is it presented and by whom?

- The Budget is presented on a day that is determined by the Parliament. While traditionally it was presented on the last working day of February, this year, because a new government has come into power, it will be presented on July 10.
- *The Budget division in the Finance Ministry has complete responsibility over the document*
- The Budget is presented by the Finance Minister. The Budget division in the Finance Ministry has complete responsibility over it, though it requires final approval from the Prime Minister.
- A timetable is drawn up by the Budget Advisory Committee of the Parliament. In this schedule, a fixed time is given for each Ministry to discuss their needs prior to the Budget presentation.

Is an annual Budget necessary?

- It is not only necessary, but compulsory. Under Article 112 of the Constitution, a Statement of Receipts and Payments (estimated) has to be tabled in the Parliament for every financial year.



इशोरइशा
IAS ACADEMY
Your Dreams, Our Mission!

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 04 FEB 2019

- The Receipts and Payments statement contains consolidated fund, contingency fund and the public account.
- The consolidated fund is a statement of all the inflows, such as tax revenues; and all expenditure, which constitute outflows. To withdraw from this fund the government requires parliamentary authorisation.
- The contingency fund is a corpus of about Rs. 50 crore kept aside for unforeseen expenses. The public account is one where all money raised from government schemes, such as Provident Fund, is accounted for.

What does the Budget document contain?

- The budget speech and the document has two parts – Part A and B. Part A is the macroeconomic part of the budget where various schemes are announced, and allocations are made to several sectors. The priorities of the government are also announced in this part.
- *An annual Budget is not only necessary, but compulsory according to the Constitution*
- Part B deals with the Finance Bill, which contains taxation proposals such as income tax revisions and indirect taxes.

What is the process of Budget approval? What will happen if a Budget is not presented before said date?

- The Finance Minister introduces the Budget in the Lok Sabha by way of a speech and gives an overview of the Budget. He then tables it in Rajya Sabha.
- Both Houses of the Parliament then allot time for a general discussion on the Budget, to which the Finance Minister replies at the end.
- Lok Sabha then takes up a discussion on each ministry's expenditure proposals. After this prescribed period, known as the Demand for Grants, the Speaker applies what is called the 'guillotine'. Once the 'guillotine' is



इशोरइश

I A S A C A D E M Y

Your Dreams, Our Mission!

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 04 FEB 2019

applied, all outstanding demands are put to vote. Though both the Houses of Parliament discuss the Budget, only the Lok Sabha votes on it.

- The Appropriation Bill is then introduced after all demands are passed, and once this Bill is passed, the government receives authorisation to draw from the consolidated fund. Once the Appropriation Bill becomes an Act, the Finance Bill is passed.
- Once this is done, the final Budget gets approved.
- If the Budget is not passed within the announced date, Article 116 of the Constitution empowers the Lok Sabha to pass the Vote-On-Account, a document which covers only the expenditure incurred.

GS-3

GSAT-31

Why in News?

The Indian Space Research Organisation is all set to launch its 40th communication satellite GSAT-31 on February 6 from the spaceport in French Guiana.

Uses of Satellite:

- The satellite with a mission life of 15 years will provide continuity to operational services on some of the in-orbit satellites and augment the Ku-band transponder capacity in Geostationary Orbit.
- The satellite, weighing about 2,535 kg, is scheduled for launch onboard the Ariane-5 (VA247) from Kourou in French Guiana.
- The satellite derives its heritage from ISROs earlier INSAT/GSAT satellite series.
- The satellite provides Indian mainland and island coverage.



इशोइशा
IAS ACADEMY
Your Dreams, Our Mission!

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 04 FEB 2019

- GSAT-31 will be used for supporting VSAT networks, television uplinks, digital satellite news gathering, DTH television services, cellular back haul connectivity and many such applications.
- The satellite will also provide wide beam coverage to facilitate communication over large oceanic region comprising large part of the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean using wide band transponder.

Lead Absorbing Plant:

Why in News?

Researchers from Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala have identified a native roadside plant that can take up lead from the soil and thus help in removing the metal from the environment.

About the Plant:

- The plant was found to accumulate lead at about 12,000 microgram/g of dry weight in the root and 7,000 microgram/g of dry weight in its shoot.
- These plants grow in soils that are continuously exposed to lead from vehicle exhausts.
- Among the hundreds of native plants screened, research done earlier by the group shortlisted three plants.
- The present study found that *Eclipta prostrata* had the highest lead tolerance.

Where are they found?

- *E. prostrata* or 'False Daisy' is found across the Indian subcontinent.
- Known 'Bhringraj' (Karisalankanni in Tamil), it is used as a 'hair-growth stimulant' and in many ayurvedic preparations.



इशोरइश
I A S A C A D E M Y

Your Dreams, Our Mission!

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 04 FEB 2019

- The plant may be using the lead to protect itself from the pests, or other predators. .
- The plants can be burned up after they have taken up the lead. In this way, the metal can be effectively contained and later disposed off safely.