Daily Current Affairs

26 December 2019
Swadesh Darshan Scheme

launched by *Tourism Ministry*

**Objective:** to develop theme-based tourist circuits in the country. These tourist circuits will be developed on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner.

*Under the Scheme 15 circuits have been identified for development* namely Himalayan Circuit, North East Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Buddhist Circuit and Coastal Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit and Sufi Circuit.

**Features of Swadesh Darshan Scheme:**

*100% centrally funded*

*Funding of individual project will vary from state to state*

*A National Steering Committee (NSC)*

*A Mission Directorate*
Chief of Defence Staff

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved the creation of a chief of defence staff (CDS).

He will be the single-point military adviser to the government as suggested by the Kargil Review Committee in 1999.

CDS oversees and coordinates the working of the three Services.

Conditions:

He will be a Four-star General.

Not eligible to hold any Government office after demitting the office of CDS. No private employment without prior approval for a period of five years after demitting the office of CDS.
Roles and functions

CDS will provide “single-point military advice” to the government, inject synergy in planning, procurements and logistics in the armed forces.

It will ensure integration of land-air-sea operations through the eventual setting up of theatre commands.

The CDS will also function as the military advisor to the PM-led Nuclear Command Authority, as also have direct command of tri-Service organizations to handle the new warfare domains of space and cyberspace.
Mission Shat Pratishat

The Punjab Education Department recently launched Mission Shat Pratishat to achieve 100 per cent result in classes 5, 8, 10, and 12 of government schools.

The Mission was launched in September 2019 by the Punjab education department.

It aimed to improve the results of the government schools in terms of pass percentage in the 10th and 12th board examinations.

WhatsApp groups of teachers, students, and parents by different subject teachers have been formed to ensure proper coordination as well as sharing of good practices.

Model question papers have been prepared for every subject and students are being made to solve them.
**Oxygen Parlour** At Nashik Railway Station

To battle rising air pollution in cities, an "Oxygen Parlour" has been opened at Nashik railway station.

It aims to provide an experience of breathing clean air to the commuters.

The initiative comes with the efforts of the Airo Guard in collaboration with the Indian Railways.

The parlour contains some unique plants that better absorb the five most harmful pollutants from the air.
Atal Bihari Vajpayee Tunnel

The government will name the strategic tunnel under Rohtang Pass after former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his birth anniversary on **December 25th**.

**Key facts:**

The 8.8-km-long tunnel is **the world’s longest above an altitude of 3,000 metres**.

The tunnel will cut through **Pir Panjal range**.

The tunnel provides **a temporary winter link to the outside world not only to residents of Lahaul and Spiti but also to those living in Zanskar Valley of Ladakh**.

**The Seri nullah default zone** lies inside the tunnel.
Bar-Headed Goose

Also known as *Anser indicus*, it is known to be one of the highest flying birds in the world. It can fly at altitudes of 25,000 feet, while migrating over the Himalayas, where oxygen and temperature levels are extremely low.

The species has been reported as migrating south from Tibet, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Russia before crossing the Himalaya.

It is classified as “Least Concerned” as per the IUCN Red List.
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