

## PRELIMS EXCLUSIVE

- The Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports & Information and Broadcasting Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore flagged off an all-women expedition to **Mt. Manirang in Himachal Pradesh**. Mount Manirang, known as the ***crown of Spiti Valley***, is one of the biggest mountains (6593 mts high) in Himachal Pradesh. The expedition commemorates the **silver jubilee of 1993 First All Women Everest expedition**. The 19-member team, which includes nine members of the 1993 team, is being **led by Ms Bimla Negi**, a veteran mountaineer who was a member of the 1993 team.

### **1993 Expedition**

- The 21-member team was **led by Ms. Bachendri Pal**.
- The historic expedition set up several world records at the time which included the **largest number of persons (18) of a single expedition to climb Mount Everest**.
- It also had the largest number of women (six) from a single country to climb Mount Everest.
- **Santosh Yadav** is the first female to have climbed Everest twice.
- **Ms. Dicky Dolma**, all of 19 years old, became the **youngest woman in the world to climb the highest peak** in the world.

- **Jodhpur**: It has been ranked cleanliest rail stations in Third Party Survey Report on Station Cleanliness.
- **Justice Manjula Chellur**: She has taken oath as Chairperson of Appellate Tribunal for Electricity.
- **Axis Bank**: It has been the first to introduce iris authentication for Aadhaar-based transactions.
- **R S Sharma**: He has been re-appointed TRAI chairperson till 2020.
- **Rekha Sharma**: She has been appointed as Chairperson of National Commission for Women.
- **B Sesikeran committee**: FSSAI constitutes B Sesikeran committee to review food labelling standards.
- **Milletts**: India pitches for declaring 2019 as International Year of Milletts by FAO.
- **Ashish Kumar Bhutani**: He has been appointed CEO of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.
- **Central Board of RBI**: Centre appoints Swaminathan Gurusamy and Satish Marathe as non-official directors.
- **Ajay Data**: The nominating committee of Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has selected Ajay Data as new council member of Country Code supporting organisation.

### **About ICANN**

- ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) is the private (non-government) non-profit corporation with responsibility for IP address space allocation, protocol parameter assignment, domain name system management, and root server system management functions.
- These services previously performed by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA).
- IANA derived its authority under a contract from the U.S. government which financed the original research network, Advanced Research Projects Agency Network, from which the Internet grew.
- The need to internationalize the governing of the Internet (among other concerns) led the U.S. government to recommend the origin of ICANN as a global, government-independent entity to manage the systems and protocols that keep the Internet going.

- **Wind Project**: India's first interstate connected wind power project commissioned in Bhuj.

- **NETA App:** National Electoral Transformation (NETA) mobile application was launched to that allows voters to rate and review their political representatives.
- **Bond-i:** World Bank launches world's first blockchain bond.
- **Reliance Industries** became first Indian company to cross Rs. 8 trillion market cap.
- **HAL:** It became first PSU to transact on TReDS Platform. TReDS is online electronic institutional mechanism for facilitating the financing of trade receivables of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) through multiple financiers.
- **8888 Uprising**
  - August 8 marks the 30th anniversary of the people's uprising in Myanmar popularly known as 8888 uprising. The uprising took place on 8 August 1988 (hence the name 8888) and is one of Myanmar's most important historic days in the context of the pro-democracy movement.
  - '8888' was a people's movement that challenged the then ruling Burma Socialist Programme Party's grip on political, economic and social affairs which led the country into extreme poverty.
  - The objective of '8888' was two-fold: to push for the transfer of power from the military to a civilian leadership and a change in the political system from an authoritarian regime to a multi-party democracy.
- **Fateh Mobin:** Iran has unveiled the next generation of Tehran's Fateh Mobin (Bright Corridor) short-range ballistic missile. It is a new type of Fateh 110 short-range ballistic missile which is capable of striking targets on land and sea. It has improved "stealth" features to defeat enemy ballistic missile defenses. The new missile's range was not given, but previous versions had a range of around 200 to 300 kilometres.
- Michelle Bachelet of Chile has been appointed as the next United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. She will have four year term and will succeed Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein of Jordan. Bachelet ended her second four-year term as President of Chile in March 2018, having already held the position between 2006 and 2010.

About UN High Commissioner For Human Rights:

- The Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was appointed by the General Assembly to realise a demand of the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993.
- It represents the world's commitment to universal ideals of human dignity with a mandate to promote and protect all human rights.
- OHCHR's thematic priorities are strengthening international human rights mechanisms; enhancing equality and countering discrimination; combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law; integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere; widening the democratic space; and early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity.
- The office is headed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, who co-ordinates human rights activities throughout the UN System and supervises the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

- **Fields Medal:** Akshay Venkatesh, a renowned Indian-Australian mathematician, is one of four winners of mathematics' prestigious Fields medal, regarded as the Nobel Prize for math. The other three winners are: Caucher Birkar, a Cambridge University professor of Iranian Kurdish origin; Germany's Peter Scholze, who teaches at the University of Bonn and Alessio Figalli, an Italian mathematician at ETH Zurich. The prize was inaugurated in 1932 at the request of Canadian

mathematician John Charles Fields, who ran the 1924 Mathematics Congress in Toronto. The Fields medals are awarded every four years to the most promising mathematicians under the age of 40.

- **Operation Madad and Operation Sahyog**

- Operation Madad has been launched by Indian Navy to assist the state administration and undertake disaster relief operations due to unprecedented flooding in many parts of Kerala following incessant rainfall and release of excess water from Idukki and other dams. The Southern Naval Command is spearheading this operation.
- Operation Sahyog has been launched by Indian Army for disaster relief and rescue operations at Kannur, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Idukki after incessant rain and landslides hit various northern districts of the state. Karnataka and Kerala Sub area Headquartered at Bangalore was controlling the “Operation Sahyog” in Kerala.

- **Maitree 2018**, conducted in Thailand, is a joint military exercise between Indian Army and Royal Thai Army.
- **Defence Industrial Corridor Projects:** Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched projects for defence industrial corridor in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. Six nodal points have been identified for the UP corridor, which are Agra, Aligarh, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chitrakoot and Jhansi. It was launched as part of the Union Government’s efforts to develop specialised zones dedicated to defence production in the state. During 2018-19 budget address, it was announced that the government will develop two defence industrial production corridors. The first corridor was developed in Tamil Nadu which will link Chennai and Bengaluru and will pass through Coimbatore and several other industrial clusters. Defence Manufacturing was identified as one of the 25 key sectors for the success of Make in India’ initiative.
- **Karnataka Bank** has integrated its education loan scheme with **Vidya Lakshmi Portal** of Government of India. Vidya Lakshmi Portal is a portal under which students can view, apply and track the education loan applications to banks. The portal **also provides linkages to National Scholarship Portal**. The portal has been **developed and maintained by NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited** under the guidance of Department of Financial Services, (Ministry of Finance), Department of Higher Education (Ministry of Human Resource Development) and Indian Banks Association (IBA).
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) has achieved the target of providing **5 crore deposit free LPG connections to BPL households** well before its target of 31st March 2019. PMUY was launched in **2016** to safeguard the health of women & children by providing them with a clean cooking fuel – LPG. It is a scheme of the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**.
- From now on, there would not be any ceiling for a family's annual earnings to be a beneficiary under the **Kanyashree Prakalpa** – a West Bengal Government sponsored scheme. Kanyashree Prakalpa is a conditional cash transfer scheme aiming at improving the status and well being of the girl child by **incentivising schooling of teenage girls** and delaying their marriages until the age of 18, the legal age of marriage. In 2017, It received the **United Nations Public Service Award**.
- Odisha government recently announced its universal health coverage scheme **Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY)**. The scheme would benefit around 70 lakh families by providing secondary and tertiary cashless health care assistance up to Rs 5 lakh per family per annum.
- **Meghalaya** government has made it **mandatory for married people to produce marriage certificates for all official purposes**. It has also decided to deny government jobs and benefits to men who have abandoned their families and are not providing for maintenance of their children. The step has been taken in view of increasing cases of broken marriages and women being forced to fend for themselves and their children.