

# Abhyaas Newsboard...

For the quintessential test prep student

### Persons in News

- 1. Former CBI chief Alok Verma resigned from service.
  - a. The government had decided to remove him from the post of CBI Director, and transfer him as head of Fire Services, Civil Defence & Home Guards till January 31 but he refused to take up the role.
  - b. The Govt. appointed M. Nageswara Rao as interim CBI Director till further notice.
- 2. Jaideep Govind has been appointed as New Secretary General of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Also, Prabhat Singh is appointed as as Director General (Investigation) in National Human Rights Commission.
- 3. Sudhir Bhargava was appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC), along with four new information commissioners in the central information commission.
- 4. Justice Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair Radhakrishnan was on January 1, 2018 sworn in as the first Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court. Prior to this, Justice Radhakrishnan had been serving as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad for both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- 5. Justice Praveen Kumar was on January 1, 2018 sworn in as the new acting Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. The oath of the office was administered by the state's Governor ESL Narasimhan.
- 6. Vinod Kumar Yadav, the South Central Railway (SCR) general manager, has been appointed as Chairman of the Railway Board under the Ministry of Railways and ex-officio Principal Secretary to the Government of India. He succeeded Ashwani Lohani.
- 7. India born Gita Gopinath joined the International Monetary Fund as its Chief Economist. She is the first woman to occupy the top IMF post.
- 8. Vijay Mallya became the first person to be named as a Fugitive Economic Offender, after being charged under a new anti-fraud law.
- 9. YES Bank appointed Deutsche Bank's Ravneet Singh Gill as its MD and CEO, who will succeed Rana Kapoor. Gill, who is the CEO of Deutsche Bank's India operations, will join the private lender on or before March 1, 2019.
- 10. Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh has been Reappointed as Regional Director for World Health Organization South-East Asia, for a second five-year term. "Some interesting facts about WHO: Thailand became the first in Asia-Pacific to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis. Maldives and Srilanka were malaria free. India was declared yaws-free and Nepal declared as trachoma-free."
- 11. On 1st January 2019, Jair Bolsonaro has been sworn-in as new president of Brazil for a four-year term. He is a member of the Social Liberal Party (PSL) and succeeded Michel Temer. Bolsonaro won the presidential election by a wide margin against Fernando Haddad of the left-wing Workers Party on 28 October 2018.
- 12. Sultan Abdullah of Pahang has been elected as the new King of Malaysia, after Malaysian King Sultan Muhammad V step down from the throne before completing his five-year tenure on 6th January 2019. Sultan Abdullah will be sworn-in as the Nation's 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong (or head of state) in a traditional ceremony on 31st January 2019. Malaysia is the only country in the world to have a rotational monarchy since the country became independent from Britain in 1957.
- 13. Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen appointed Su Tseng-chang as Prime Minister on January 10, 2019, during a Cabinet reshuffle following the ruling Democratic Progressive Party's heavy losses in local elections. Su is a former premier appointed in 2006 by then-President Chen Shui-bian and was a chairman of Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party for two terms.
- 14. Tulsi Gabbard, the first Hindu elected to US Congress and a four-time Democratic lawmaker, has said she will run for President in 2020, becoming the latest member of her party to challenge Republican President Donald Trump. The Iraq War veteran is the second woman after Senator Elizabeth Warren to enter the presidential race from the Democratic Party.



- 15. In Sweden, Prime Minister Stefan Lofven has been elected for a second term on 18th January 2019 after an agreement was struck between the Social Democrats, Greens, Liberals, and Centre Party, and after the Left Party agreed to abstain from voting against Lofven. He is expected to formally present his new government and its full programme on 21st January 2019. It will be one of the weakest administrations in Sweden in 70 years, with just 32.7% of voters having cast ballots for the two parties. Sweden's inconclusive legislative elections in September 2018 had not left either main parliamentary bloc with a majority.
- 16. Switzerland's Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic won Hopman Cup Tennis for 2nd year in a row, defeating Germany's Angelique Kerber and Alexander Zverev. It was hosted in Perth (Australia). Federer became the first player to win the Hopman Cup thrice.
- 17. Mohammed Ali Qamar appointed as India's chief coach for female boxers. He had won India's first Commonwealth Games gold medal in boxing, in 2002 (Manchester) Commonwealth Games.
- 18. International Cricket Council (ICC) appointed India's Manu Sawhney as its new Chief Executive Officer. He will replace current CEO Dave Richardson in July after ICC men's World Cup.
- 19. Nepal batsman Rohit Paudel, aged 16 years and 146 days old, became the youngest half-centurion in ODIs whereas the previous record was held by Shahid Afridi, who had scored 102 at the age of 16 years and 217 days
- 20. Indian mountaineer Arunima Sinha became world's first woman amputee to climb Mountain Vinson Massif (highest peak of Antarctica with Height 4892 Metres). In 2013, she became first woman amputee to climb Mount Everest
- 21. Writer Namita Gokhale won Sushila Devi Literature Award for her novel 'Things to Leave Behind', in 'Best Book of Fiction Written by a Woman Author' category at inaugural edition of Bhopal Literature and Art Festival (BLF).
- 22. Japan Prize Foundation announced India born professor Dr. Rattan Lal (University Professor at Ohio State University in Ohio (USA)), as recipient of 2019 Japan Prize for his contributions in the field of 'Biological Production, Ecology'. Another Winner of 2019 Japan Prize is Japanese Scientist Yoshio Okamoto.
- 23. The 27th edition of Saraswati Samman award ceremony was held in New Delhi. Eminent Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashaschandra was awarded for his poetry collection, 'Vakhar,' published in 2009. The 27th edition was organised by KK Birla Foundation. His poetry collection 'Jatayu' received Sahitya Akademi Award for Gujarati in the year 1987.
- 24. Chinese lawyer Yu Wensheng won the 'Franco-German Human Rights' award on 14 January 2019. Yu Wensheng is best known for suing the Beijing government over the city's once chronic pollution.
- 25. Former President Pranab Mukherjee, late Assamese singer Bhupen Hazarika and late social activist and RSS veteran Nanaji Deshmukh were conferred with the Bharat Ratna in January 2019. The top civilian honour was last conferred to former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Banaras Hindu University founder Madan Mohan Malviya in 2015.
- 26. Prof. Sir Michael Atiyah (89), the noted British mathematician has passed away in United Kingdom on 11th January 2019. He was best known for his co-development of a branch of mathematics called topological K-theory and the Atiyah-Singer index theorem. His research also involved deep insights relating to mathematical concepts known as "vector bundles". Sir Michael was also a recipient of the Abel Prize (2004) and Fields Medal (1966), and was the former president of the Royal Society in London.
- 27. Bhanu Prakash Singh (90), the former Union minister, ex-Goa Governor and head of the Narsinghgarh royal family, passed away in Indore, Madhya Pradesh on January 24, 2019. He was elected as an MP from Rajgarh Lok Sabha seat in 1962 as an independent candidate.
- 28. Former Defence Minister George Fernandes passed away on January 29, 2019 following a prolonged illness. He was 88. Fernandes was suffering from Alzheimer's disease; and recently, he contracted swine flu. Fernandes held the portfolio of the Union Defence Minister from 2001 to 2004 under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government.
- 29. A book titled We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World, written by Pakistani Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai has been released.
- 30. Aparna Kumar has become India's first woman Indian Police Service (IPS) DIG and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) officer to successfully complete the South Pole expedition. She unfurled the National and the ITBP flags at the South Pole on 13th January 2019 after covering 111Km of walking on the snow. Aparna will now attempt to conquer the North Pole this April. She has covered six of the highest peaks across continents including the Mount Everest. The one left for her to scale is the Mount Denali in Alaska. The ITBP is a Central Armed Police Force which is primarily deployed to secure the icy Himalayan borders of the nation since its Inception in 1962.



#### Places in News

- 1. Japan, for the second time in a row, has topped a global index for the world's most powerful passport in 2019. According to the Henley Passport Index, which periodically measures the access each country's travel document affords, Japan retained its top spot as the world's most travel-friendly passport due to the document's access to 190 countries.
- 2. India secured the 79th rank in the global index for the world's most powerful passport in 2019. India jumped two positions from 81st in 2018 to 79th this year. Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nepal ranked further low at 104, 102 and 94 respectively.
- 3. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Gangajal Project in Agra (Uttar Pradesh), aiming to improve supply of drinking water. It aims to bring 140 cusecs of Ganga water to Agra to help in meeting drinking water demands in city. Project was launched in 2005 in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency and was scheduled to be completed by March 2012. It has missed several deadlines.
- 4. Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu inaugurated India's longest single-lane steel cable suspension bridge over Siang River in Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh. Bridge is 300-metre-long and is known as byorung bridge. It will reduce distance between Yingkiong and Tuting in Arunachal Pradesh by almost 40 km.
- 5. Kerala Forest Department allowed women to trek Agasthyarkoodam, a pilgrimage centre within Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary which had an unofficial ban on women entry until Kerala High Court in November 2018 ruled out gender-based restriction.
- 6. Ministry of Human Resource Development approved establishment of a Centre for Classical Language at Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University at Tirur (Kerala).
- 7. IIT Hyderabad launched a bachelor's programme in Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology, becoming first institute in India to launch full-fledged Bachelor's programme in AI technology. IIT Hyderabad is third institute to globally to offer B.Tech course in AI, after US-based Carnegie Mellon University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).
- 8. India's largest startup ecosystem inauguarated in Kerala with launch of a 1.8-lakh-square-feet facility housing incubation set-ups across a string of segments in modern technology
- 9. National Wildlife Board approved Trishna Gas project of ONGC, which falls in the Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Gomati district of Tripura.
- 10. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) in Mumbai. Development of Museum was guided by Museum Advisory Committee headed by Shyam Benegal.
- 11. Prayagraj Ardh Kumbh Mela 2019, a 55 days cultural event inaugurated in Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh). It is one of oldest traditions globally. Kumbh Mela has been named by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural heritage for humanity.

  1. North Central Railway launched a mobile application named Rail Kumbh Seva Mobile App to help navigate attendees of Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj city from January 15- March 4, 2019
- 12. The Andaman and Nicobar Command is the first and only Tri-service theater command of the Indian Armed Forces, based at Port Blair in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The archipelago is straddled strategically near the mouth of the Malacca Straits which is an important Sea Lane of Communication used by the navies of several countries.
- 13. The World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meet will begin in Davos on January 22, 2019. World leaders from across the globe will flock to the ski resort town on the Swiss Alps for five days to discuss what's ailing the world amid fears of the global economy sleepwalking into a crisis.
- 14. First time in the history of Kumbh, UP State government's cabinet meeting was held at Prayagraj Kumbh on 29th of January 2019. It is also 2nd time in the history of UP that cabinet meeting held outside the state capital. Here, the State cabinet decided to construct 600 km long Ganga Expressway from Meerut to Prayagraj with a cost of Rs. 36000 crores to provide better connectivity from Western districts to Prayagraj. The expressway is being touted as the world's longest highway. It will be built on a stretch of 6,556 hectares of land.
- 15. Deen Dayal Veterinary University in Uttar Pradesh will set up first goat fertility lab in state under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yoina at the cost of Rs 22 crores.



## **Events of Significance**

- 1. A Committee under the chairmanship of Umesh Sinha (Deputy Election Commissioner) to suggest modifications in provisions of the Section 126 and other sections of Representation of PeopleS Act 1951, provisions of Model Code of Conduct and any other ECI instruction in this regard has submitted its report. The Committee recommendations will help in minimizing possible interference of activities which aim at indirectly influencing voters during valuable silence period of 48 hours provided to them.
- 2. 4th edition of Raisina Dialogue held in New Delhi, with theme A World Reorder: New Geometries; Fluid Partnerships; Uncertain Outcomes"
- 3. Women & Child Development Minister Maneka Sanjay Gandhi conferred National Awards to 97 Anganwadi Workers(AWWs) for Exceptional Achievements for 2017-18, under Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) in New Delhi.
- 4. 25 states achieved 100 percent household electrification under Centre's 'Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana' (Saubhagya), upto end of 2018. Only about 10 Lakh households are left to be electrified in 4 States viz., Assam, Rajasthan, Meghalaya and Chhattisgarh.
- 5. Government proposed renaming Indian Forest Service as Indian Forest and Tribal Service, after Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) initiated an inter-ministerial consultation note to rename the service.
- 6. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched 4th edition of Swachh Survekshan 2019, claimed as largest cleanliness survey. It aims to assess cities of India on their cleanliness quotient. Swachh Survekshan 2019 will continue till January 31, results of which will be announced in March 2019. Survey will be conducted across 4,237 towns and cities and 62 Cantonment Boards, impacting around 40 crore people.
- 7. Lok Sabha passed Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, known as Triple Talaq Bill. It would replace the ordinance passed in September 2018. It makes all types of declaration of triple talaq to be void and illegal. Declaration of Triple Talaq would be a cognizable offence, attracting up to three years' imprisonment with a fine.
- 8. Lok Sabha passed Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2016, banning commercial surrogacy and allowing only altruistic surrogacy. It protects rights of the surrogate mother and child born from surrogacy and promotes ethical surrogacy. Lok Sabha passed Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2016, which seeks to empower the transgender community in the country by providing them a separate identity.
- 9. Parliament passed Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill 2018, that seeks to remove no-detention policy in schools and bring accountability in elementary education system. Under current provisions, no student can be detained up to class VIII. Parliament Passed National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Central Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple (Disabilities) Amendment Bill 2018.
- 10. Constitution One Hundred And Twenty-Fourth Amendment Bill 2019 -
- 1. It seeks to provide 10 % reservation in jobs and educational institutions to economically backward section in general category, which are deprived of benefits of reservation due to not belionging to reserved categories.
- 2. 10 % reservation will be in addition to existing cap of 50 % reservation for SC / ST / OBCs, taking total reservation to 60%. Thus It triggers need for a Constitution amendment Bill.
- 3. New clauses would be added to Articles 15 and 16 of Constitution which presently allow State to make reservation for only SC / ST / OBCs.
- 11. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting released draft amendment bill to amend Indian Cinematograph Act 1952, to counter piracy. 1. Piracy would be a punishable offence with imprisonment of three years and fines of up to Rs 10 lakh or both.
- 12. The Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, 2019, the Act providing 10 percent reservation in government jobs and educational institutions to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of General Category, came into effect on January 14, 2019.
- 13. The Supreme Court on January 22, 2019 held that a child born out of a marriage between a Muslim man and his Hindu wife is entitled to claim a share in his father's property. The bench comprising Justice NV Ramana and



- Justice Mohan M. Shantanagoudar observed that the marriage of a Muslim man with Hindu woman or fire-worshipper is neither a valid (sahih) nor a void (batil) marriage, but is merely an irregular (fasid) marriage.
- 14. Government decided to induct women in military police, to enhance their representation in armed forces. Women will be inducted in a graded manner to eventually comprise 20 % of total Corps of Military Police. Their role would range from probing rape and molestation cases to assisting Army wherever required
- 15. Sikkim CM Pawan Kumar Chamling announced One family one job scheme, which entitles one government job for every family in state. Sikkim is first state to launch such programme which entitles every family in state with a government job.
- 16. West Bengal government decided to exit from Central Government's Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. State Govt. stated that letters sent to beneficiaries has photos of PM Narendra Modi, which is violation of MOU as State and Centre have 60:40 partnership in scheme and state government should get similar space on documents.
- 17. Maharashtra Government launched Atal Solar Krishi Pump Yojana, to reduce losses to farmers due to non-payment of electricity bills and also promote solar energy. Government would provide solar pumps at subsidised rates for farmers.
- 18. The Union Minister of Railways and Coal, Piyush Goyal on January 27, 2019 named India's first engineless train, 'Train 18' as the Vande Bharat Express, acknowledging its made-in-India status. The train was manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in the period of 18 months under the 'Make in India' initiative of PM Narendra Modi.
- 19. The Election Commission of India on January 16, 2019 launched Voter Awareness Forum in New Delhi. The key objective of the Voter Awareness Forums is to promote informed and ethical electoral participation, beginning from the first step, which is voter registration.
- 20. The United States and its ally Israel officially withdrew from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) with the close of the year 2018. The two nations had announced their intention to quit the international organisation in October 2017, accusing it of anti-Israel bias.
- 21. Recently, German authorities approved an \$8 billion rail and road tunnel linking Denmark and Germany, despite environmental objections. The project comprises a four-lane motorway and a two-track railway. It is part-funded by the European Union (EU). The 19 km Fehmarn Belt Fixed Link is a planned immersed tunnel that is proposed to connect the Danish island of Lolland with the German island of Fehmarn.
- 22. Five nations, namely, Belgium, Dominican Republic, Germany, Indonesia and South Africa on January 2, 2019 assumed the charge as the Non-Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- 23. China has passed a law that seeks to "Sinicize" Islam within five years and might do that with other four religions in the country. Under Chinese President Xi Jinping, China has heavily cracked down on religion, especially Islam practised by most Uighurs in the country's Xinjiang province who Beijing suspects of having separatist and extremist tendencies.
- 24. India took over the operations of a part of Chabahar Port in Iran during the Chabahar Trilateral Agreement meeting held on December 24, 2018 in Iran. The heads of Indian, Iranian and Afghanistan delegation jointly inaugurated the office of the Indian SPV India Ports Global Chabahar Free Zone (IPGCFZ) at Chabahar.
- 25. The parliamentarians of the Republic of Macedonia voted on January 11, 2019 to change their country's name to the "Republic of North Macedonia". The move now awaits approval from the Greece Parliament. It results from a longstanding dispute between the two countries, because a region of Greece bordering the Macedonian republic is also called Macedonia.
- 26. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the "historic leadership" of Palestine which assumed the chairmanship of G77, the global body's largest intergovernmental organisation of developing countries including India. Egypt was the previous Chair of the Group of 77 (G77), a coalition of 134 members, along with China which aligns itself with the bloc.



- 27. British Prime Minister Theresa May and her minority government on January 16, 2019 faced a no-confidence motion, tabled by opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn following the rejection of the Brexit deal. The motion was won by May with 325 votes in favour of her government and 306 against, by a majority of 19 votes.
- 28. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently released its biannual World Economic Outlook (WEO) update at the World Economic Forum (WEF-2019) in Davos. In it, IMF estimates India's economic growth at 7.3% in 2018-19, 7.5% in 2019-20 and 7.7% in 2020-21. With the latest outlook, India will remain the fastest-growing economy in the world, at least for the next two years.
- 29. The Government of Pakistan has recently declared sugarcane juice as the 'national drink' of the country. The announcement came after the government conducted a Twitter poll where people were asked to decide on the country's national drink with two other options -- orange and carrot -- besides sugarcane.
- 30. India and China have signed the protocol for exports of Indian tobacco leaves to China. Quality tobacco on par with international standards is available in India at competitive prices and there is a good potential for export of Indian tobacco to China.
- 31. India improved its ranking on the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) by three points and moved to 78th position with a score of 41. India ranked at 81st place on the Corruption Perceptions Index 2017. In the list of 180 countries, China and Pakistan lagged far behind India at 87th and 117th position, respectively
- 32. The central banks of the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have launched a common digital currency called Aber, which will be used in financial settlements between the two countries through Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers technologies.
- 33. Khelo India Youth games 2019 (Previously called Khelo India School Games) began at Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Pune (Maharashtra).
  - a. The games are held in two categories- under-17 years school students and under-21 college students.
  - b. These are part of Khelo India programme, which was introduced to revive sports culture in India at grass-root level.
  - c. Khelo India programme has been divided into 12 verticals. Selected atheltes will be provided annual assistance of INR 5 lakh per annum for 8 years.
- 34. International Cricket Council (ICC) announced USA Cricket as its 105th member. USA Cricket came into existence after USACA was expelled in June 2017 for poor administration of sport in USA. USA Cricket became 93rd Associate member of ICC.
- 35. Hindu Literary Prize 2018 awarded during The Hindu Lit for Life 2019.
  - a. Fiction Neelum Saran Gour for Requiem in Raga Janki
  - b. Non-fiction Manoranjan Byapari for Interrogating my Chandal Life: An Autobiography of a Dalit
- 36. 2 Commemorative coins in denomination of Rs 100 and Rs 5 were released to mark 102nd Birth Anniversary of late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran.
- 37. World's first television channel dedicated to human rights launched in London by International Observatory of Human Rights (IOHR). Broadcasts can be viewed via Netgem. It would focus on issues like refugees, press freedom and the incarceration of journalists, extremism, women's rights, LGBT+ issues and the plight of the world's stateless people.
- 38. At the 70th Republic Day parade 2019, women power was displayed at Rajpath, with contingents of the Indian Navy, India Army Service Corps and a unit of Corps of Signals (transportable satellite terminal) all being led by women officers and a woman officer exhibiting stunts on bike. Major Khushboo Kanwar leading the all-women Assam Rifles contingent created history by participating for the first time in a Republic Day parade. Capt Shikha Surabhi from the Corps of Signals became the first woman to perform bike stunts alongside her male teammates as part of daredevils, a major attraction every Republic Day. For the first time, a lady officer, Lt. Bhavana Kasturi led a contingent of the India Army Service Corps and Capt Bhavna Syal, a third-generation officer in the armed forces, led the transportable satellite terminal's contingent.



- 39. The 2019 Padma Awards were announced in January. A total of 112 awards were announced this year which included 4 Padma Vibhushan, 14 Padma Bhushan and 94 (incl a duo case) Padma Shri Awards. 21 of the awardees are women, 11 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, 3 Posthumous awardees and 1 Transgender person.
- 40. The first official World Braille Day was celebrated on January 4, 2019. The World Braille Day is observed in order to raise awareness of the importance of braille as a means of communication in the full realisation of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people.
- 41. World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on January 10, marking the anniversary of first World Hindi Conference which was held in 1975. The first World Hindi Conference was inaugurated by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi.
- 42. The Ministry of Women and Child Development on January 24, 2019 celebrated the National Girl Child Day 2019 (NGCD) at Pravasi Bharti Kendra, Chankyapuri, New Delhi. The theme of National Girl Child Day 2019 was "Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow".
- 43. The 9th National Voters' day was observed across India on January 25, 2019 with an aim to increase enrolment of voters, especially of the newly eligible ones. This was the ninth edition of the Day. The day also aims to spread awareness among voters regarding effective participation in the electoral process.
- 44. The first-ever UN's International Day of Education is observed on January 24 to highlight the role of education for peace and development. Education is a human right, a public good and a public responsibility. The day recognizes the importance of ensuring inclusive quality education & access to lifelong learning opportunities for all. The right to education is enshrined in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. UNESCO calls on governments and all partners to make universal quality education a leading priority. In India, National Education Day (NED) is observed on November 11 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the first education minister of independent India Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
- 45. The International Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed every year on 27th of January to commemorate the tragedy of the Holocaust that occurred during the Second World War. It commemorates the genocide that resulted in the death of an estimated 6 million Jews and others by the Nazi regime.

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