

July, 2019:

- **President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed BJP senior leader Biswa Bhushan Harichandran as Andhra Pradesh governor.**

Note: He replaced ESL Narasimhan, serving as the governor of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Earlier, Mr Harichandran was elected to Odisha Assembly for the five times from Bhubaneswar and Chilika.

- **BJP veteran and former Odisha minister sworn in as the new Governor of Andhra Pradesh (23rd) ___ Mr Biswabhusan Harichandan.**

Note: Harichandan replaced ESL Narasimhan, who is also governor of Telangana. The governors and lieutenant governors are appointed by the president for a term of five years.

- **The annual Jagannath Rath Yatra has begun at Puri in Odisha.**

Note: Lakhs of people converge at Jagannath Temple in Puri to witness Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra riding three giant wooden chariots which are pulled by devotees as they travel to Gundicha temple. The Yatra commences with Lord Jagannath and his siblings visiting his aunt's place, Gundicha Temple, and is followed by rituals like Suna Besha and Adhar Pana on their return. In Gujarat, 142nd annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath begins in Ahmedabad

- **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced that Sachivalaya (State secretariat) will now be called 'Lok Seva Bhawan'.**

Note: Mr Patnaik made this announcement while moving the expenditure relating to the Home Department in Assembly. The Odisha secretariat building was inaugurated on November 12, 1959, by the then Union Home Minister Govind Ballabh Pant.

- **Google India's 'Internet Saathi' programme aimed to empower rural women to use the Internet has added two more states Punjab & Odisha.**

Note: With this, the programme has now reached 2.6 lakh villages in 20 states. Launched as a pilot project in 2015, along with Tata Trusts, 'Internet Saathi' programme focuses on educating women on how to use the Internet. These women, in turn, impart training to other women in their community and neighbouring villages.

- **Odisha-based Navaratna Company National Aluminium Company (NALCO) has been selected for President's award for utilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund in social development.**

Note: NALCO has started "Aliali Jhia" a new scheme on the line of 'BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO' (from 2015) to promote the education of Girls of BPL families. Under this scheme, 416 girls from BPL families of 66 villages of Anugul, Damanjodi and Potangi area in Anugul and Koraput districts have been adopted by Company. The Company is bearing all the expenditure for education and promotion of talent from 8th to 10th class.

- **Odisha has won the ownership right geographical indication (GI) tag from the Registrar of Geographical Indication over its Rasagola.**

Note: The Chennai-based Registrar of Geographical Indications issued the ownership certificate registering the sweetmeat as 'Odisha Rasagola' under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. The certificate will be valid until 22 February 2028. Both Odisha and West Bengal have been contesting the origin of Rasagola, and West Bengal had got GI for "Banglar Rasagola" in 2017.

- **Odisha Government will host the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship at the Jawaharlal Indoor Stadium in Cuttack.**

Note: This championship will see participation from some of the best players from across the world. Sports Secretary Vishal Dev and senior vice president, TTFI SN Sultan and president, OSTTA LN Gupta signing the MoU in the presence of CM Naveen Patnaik. The tournament has received a good entry with 14 associations, consisting India, Singapore, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, England, Scotland, Wales, Jersey, Australia, Cyprus, South Africa, Nigeria, Pakistan.

- **Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal opened the 21st edition of Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship at the Jawaharlal Indoor Stadium in Cuttack.**

Note: The event will witness the top players from Australia, Bangladesh, Cyprus, England, Malaysia, India, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Scotland, South Africa, Singapore and Wales. Ghana, Guyana and Pakistan pulled out of the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships.

- **'SHE Team' on patrol in Odisha:**

To ensure the safety and security of young girls and women, Odisha's Gajapati district police in Paralakhemundi has started a pilot project called the 'SHE Team'. SHE stands for 'Safety, Health and Environment'.

This project is modelled on the lines of Hyderabad 'SHE Team'. It is headed by a lady sub-inspector and includes mobile patrolling teams.

'SHE Team' also seeks to prevent harassment of working women at workplaces and public places where they move for their job.

It will also self-defence and cyberspace safety to young girls and children.

- **Odisha Government implements the Centre's Witness Protection Scheme**

The Odisha government has come up with a special 'Witness Protection Scheme' to provide security to witnesses facing a threat during a legal battle.

Witness Protection Scheme

The Witness Protection Scheme aims to ensure that investigation, prosecution and trial of criminal offences are not prejudiced because witnesses are intimidated or frightened to give evidence without protection from other criminal forces.

The scheme includes three categories of witnesses as per threat perception:

Category A- It consists of those cases where threat extends to the life of witness or family members during an investigation, trial or thereafter.

Category B. It consists of those cases where the threat extends to safety, reputation or property of the witness or family members during the investigation or trial falls.

Category C: It will consist of those cases where the threat is moderate and extends to harassment or intimidation of the witness or family members, reputation or property during investigation, trial or thereafter.

The important features of the scheme include protective measures like ensuring that the witness and accused do not come face to face during probe, protection and change of identity, relocation of witnesses, confidentiality and preservation of records and recovery of expenses among others.

- **12 Indian beaches in the race to crest the 'Blue Flag' challenge**

The Union Environment Ministry has selected 12 beaches in India to vie for a 'Blue Flag' certification. It is an international recognition conferred on beaches that meet certain criteria of cleanliness and environmental propriety.

These beaches are at Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Bhogave (Maharashtra), Ghoghla (Diu), Miramar (Goa), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Eden (Puducherry), Mamallapuram (Tamil Nadu), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden (Odisha), and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).

- **Google India's 'Internet Saathi' programme has now added two more states Punjab and Odisha.**

About **'Internet Saathi' programme.'**

It is launched as a pilot project in 2015, along with Tata Trusts. The programme aimed to empower rural women on how to use the Internet, which will now cover 20 states including Punjab and Odisha. This programme also helps in implying driving awareness for issues like girl child education, menstrual hygiene and more.

- **Odisha renews the effort to revive the gharial population.** Odisha has renewed its effort to revive the population of gharials in their natural habitat by releasing into the Satkosia gorge of Mahanadi. Satkosia gorge of Mahanadi is the southernmost limit of gharials' home range in India.
- **Proahaetulla antique:** 26 million years old species of Vine snake in the Western Ghats. Researchers discover a new species of vine snake named Proahaetulla antique from the Western Ghats that dates back 26 million years. This species is endemic to the southern Western Ghats. The common name suggested for these individuals is 'keeled vine snake'. Vine snakes get their names due to their slender bodies and vine-like appearances. In India particularly there are four species of commonly distributed vine snakes, and another one was discovered in Odisha recently.
- **Odisha envisages new 'Industrial Policy' to attract new investments:**

India, with a new global outlook, increased the intra-state competition. The infrastructure of competition is changing with the adoption of new techniques. Now, eyeing this competition, the Odisha government is evaluating its Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR) which was last revised in 2015.

To attract more investments and clearing the image of the state, Odisha plans a revised IPR that will offer investors sops like SGST (State Goods & Services Tax) holiday and electricity duty exemption for five years. It is also expected to sweeten the subsidy on fresh capital investments by existing and prospective investors. The new policy statement is set to be valid for at least five years from the date of its promulgation.

Keeping to the requirement of the investors, the state government has been unveiling sector-specific policies. The industries department has rolled out several investor-friendly apps and to top it all a definitive portal- Government of Odisha Single Window Investor Facilitation & Tracking- GO SWIFT which tracks the entire life cycle of an investment- beginning from proposal to implementation and beyond.

- **Odisha Secretariat renamed Lok Seva Bhavan:** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday announced in the State Assembly that the Sachivalaya or Secretariat building in Bhubaneswar will now be called 'Lok Seva Bhavan'.
- **Hong Kong govt approves over \$9 million for cyclone-hit Odisha:** The Hong Kong government has approved over \$900,000 for relief and rehabilitation work in cyclone-hit Odisha that could benefit around 45,100 victims. Very severe cyclonic storm 'Fani battered Odisha in May and killed 64 people and damaged more than five lakh dwelling units in the state's coastal districts. Three grants totalling 7.032 million Hong Kong dollars (about \$902,278) from Hong Kong's Disaster Relief Fund to three agencies have been approved for the cyclone victims in Odisha, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported quoting a spokesperson of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government as saying.