

October,2019:

1. **Pankaj Kumar has been appointed as CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).**

Note: Braj Raj Sharma (1984 batch officer) has been appointed Chairman of Staff Selection Commission (SSC). Tuhin Kanta Pandey (Odisha cadre IAS officer) Secretary Department of Investment and Public Asset Management. Sanjeev Nandan Sahai (1986 batch officer) will be the new Power Secretary. Pramod Kumar Das (and Madhya Pradesh Cadre IAS) has been appointed Minority Affairs Secretary.

2. **Odisha's biggest trade fair 'Bali Jatra' is scheduled to begin on 12th November.**

Note: According to the Odia Calendar, the festival is celebrated every year from the day of (full moon day of the month of Kartika). 'Bali Jatra' will be jointly organized by the Cuttack District Administration, District Cultural Council, and the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC). ➤ The trade fair will continue for eight days.

3. **World Bank has signed a tripartite loan agreement worth USD 165 million with the Government of India and Odisha government.**

Note: Under this loan agreement, the project "The Odisha Integrated Irrigation Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture" will be implemented in Odisha's rural areas which are vulnerable to droughts and largely dependent on rainfed agriculture. This project will diversify and improve the marketing of their produce, for increased income by managing 128,000 ha of agricultural land in Odisha.

4. **The Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik has launched a social service initiative 'Odisha Mo Parivar'**

Note: Under the 'Odisha Mo Parivar' (Odisha, my family) programme, party leaders will dedicate themselves to protect the environment and undertake extensive planting of trees, and create awareness among the public.

5. **Mo Sarkar initiative launched**

Odisha Chief Minister launched a new governance initiative 'Mo Sarkar' on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

- The objective of the 'Mo Sarkar' programme is to provide service with dignity to people who are coming to government offices for different purposes.
- This is the first such type of programme in the country.

- The phone numbers of people who are coming to government offices will be collected randomly with the purpose to improve the governance system by collecting feedback on behaviour and professionalism of government officers.
- The employees will be ranked as good or bad on the basis of the feedback and those with good rank will get out-of-turn promotion and action will be taken against employees with bad rank.

6. National Coordination Centre

The Central Government is planning to create a National Coordination Centre (NCC) which will function as a databank on Maoists' core strongholds and cadres.

About the NCC

- The National Coordination Center (NCC) will act as a synergy point for anti – Maoist operations and intelligence gathering.
- The NCC will also utilise the experience and knowledge of retired police officers who have served in anti-Maoist operations in areas of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh.
- The coordination centre will also identify the sources of finance to the Maoists and work to neutralise the network.

7. Odisha govt inks LoU for 'drink from tap mission' with UNICEF

In a bid to provide quality drinking water to every urban household in the state, Odisha has inked a Letter of Understanding (LoU) on "drink from tap mission" with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

According to the Housing and Urban Development Department, UNICEF will provide technical cooperation to the government of Odisha for implementation of the "drink from tap" program which aims at providing piped quality drinking water supply to each household on a 24-hour basis, in first phase 1.20 lakh people are going to benefit.

8. Odisha CM Inaugurates 39th World Congress Of Poets At KIIT

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the 39th World Congress of Poets (WCP) at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Deemed to be University here in Odisha on Wednesday, the day coinciding with the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

KIIT & KISS founder and President of World Congress of Poets 2019, Dr Achyuta Samanta, renowned author Ruskin Bond and several litterateurs from across the world were present on occasion.

The Wisdom Poetry will be held on 3rd October at KIIT, while the Tourism Poetry will be held at Konark Sun Temple on 4th October. The venue for Spiritual Poetry is Puri Sea Beach, and Reflection Poetry will be held at KISS.

9. Odisha launches SAP to make state child marriage free by 2030

- To make Odisha Child Marriage free by 2030, the state government on Thursday launched a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) with the support of UNICEF and UNFPA.
- Actions outlined in the strategic focus areas would be implemented with strong linkages among all stakeholders and coordination across all tiers of governance, synergistic and coordinated efforts by multiple departments would be the key to achieving the goal set to end child marriage.
- The key messages on child marriage were released by 'Tiki Mausii', the mascot of the Department of Women and Child Development.
- Monika Nielsen, Chief of the field office, UNICEF, Odisha and other dignitaries were also present during the launch of the SAP.

10. Rs 3208 crore for ABADHA scheme in Odisha for three years

The Odisha government has decided to spend Rs 3208 crore under the Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme in three years to transform Puri into a world heritage city.

- A proposal in this regard was approved in the meeting of the Cabinet presided by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. While Rs 719 crore will be spent under the scheme in 2019-20, the cost of the projects to be taken up under ABADHA will be around Rs 1402 crore and Rs 1087 crore in 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively.
- Besides, the Cabinet approved a proposal to amend the Odisha Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1951 by excluding Gobardhan Math, Puri from its purview to vest the management of the Math with Jagadguru Shankaracharya.
- A number of projects have been approved by the Chief Minister under the ABADHA scheme this year including development of the heritage security zone, Shree Setu project, Musa river revival plan, Jagannath Ballav pilgrim centre, housing projects, Puri lake development project, upgradation of Raghunandan Library, Acharya Harihar square re-development project, Atharnala heritage project, Matha Development Initiative and development of heritage lakes. These projects are likely to cost Rs 2308 crore.