

## September, 2019:

1. **Ministry of Mines has allowed Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to offload in a year up to a quantity equivalent to maximum 25% of total iron ore production in previous years.**

Note: It will be subject to clearance from the respective State Governments, where the mines are located, after following due procedure. Around 7 million tonnes of iron ore, produced at its different mines in the States of Jharkhand, Odisha and Chattisgarh, can be offloaded by SAIL to the domestic market after getting necessary clearance from the State Governments. This will enable SAIL to not only fulfil its own requirement but also to partially cater to a shortfall in domestic iron ore requirement.

2. **OSDMA (Odisha State Disaster Management Authority) has won the IT Excellence Award, 2019 for its innovative conception by using information technology in the field of disaster management.**

Note: The "SATARK" (System for Assessing, Tracking and Alerting Disaster Risk Information based on Dynamic Risk Knowledge) application has been chosen for the award. This app has been developed to provide real-time watch, alert and warning information for different natural disasters and hazards such as heatwave, lightning, agriculture risk, flood, tsunami, earthquake, cyclone or storm, road accident and snakebite.

3. **Nuakhai: The greatest harvesting festival of Odisha.**

The festival of Nuakhai is a festival to celebrate newly harvested food by the farmers. Nuakhai festival traces its origin to the Vedic period where the sages or Rishis used to talk about Panchyajna. One among them was Pralambana yajna, which means the cutting of new crops and offering them to mother goddess as followed in Nuakhai festival.

4. **Odisha government banned the Paraquat herbicide**

Odisha government has banned the Paraquat herbicide, which kills around 170 people in the last two years. According to the doctors, there is no antidote to this herbicide, the consumers of which complain of kidney, liver and lung problems.

#### **About Paraquat:**

- It has been banned in 32 countries, including Switzerland, where herbicide producing company Syngenta is based.
- Paraquat also figures on the list of 99 pesticides and herbicides activist Kavitha Kuruganti is requesting the Supreme Court to ban in an ongoing case.
- So far in India, only Kerala has banned the herbicide.
- Paraquat is yet to be listed in the prior informed consent (PIC) of Rotterdam Convention, is an international treaty on import/export of hazardous chemicals signed in 1998.

**5. IAF successfully flight tests air-to-air Astra missile from Sukhoi-30 MKI**

India has successfully tested Air-to-Air missile, ASTRA off the coast of Odisha. The missile was launched from Su-30 MKI as a part of User trials. The Sukhoi Su-30MKI is a twinjet multirole air superiority fighter developed by Russia's Sukhoi for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

**6. Coal gasification can help India reduce its energy import**

Odisha's Talcher fertiliser plant was awarded a contract for starting a coal gasification unit for the production of urea and Ammonia. It was part of the government's initiative to revive closed fertiliser plants belonging to the Fertiliser Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and the Hindustan Fertilisers Corporation Ltd (HFCL).

**7. India TB Report 2019**

- The Centre released the India TB Report 2019, which showed a 16% increase in the number of cases in 2018 as compared to the previous year.
- The report said 21.5 lakh TB cases were notified to the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) in 2018; India accounted for a quarter of the Global TB burden with an estimated 27 lakh new cases in the year.
- The majority of the affected individuals (89%) were in the age group 15-69.
- Uttar Pradesh, with 17% of the population of the country, reported 4.2 lakh cases, accounting for 20% of all notifications.
- Odisha witnessed a decline in the number of notified cases from over 67,000 in 2017 to 50,244 in 2018, or about 25%. Odisha was the only such state; the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands too witnessed a drop.

**8. Elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV)**

Recently the Nandankanan Zoological Park (Odisha) has lost four elephant due to Elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus.

**Elephant endotheliotropic herpesviruses**

- It is also known as Elephantid betaherpesvirus 1 (EIHV-1).
- It is a type of herpes virus, which can cause a highly fatal hemorrhagic disease when transmitted to young Asian elephants.
- There is no drug that has been developed to deal with EEHV.

**9. Odisha unveils 'Tikki Mausi' to combat malnutrition among children, women**

Government of Odisha in collaboration with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund has unveiled a mascot named 'Tikki Mausi'.

**About mascot:**

- The mascot aims to change the behaviour of common people and make them aware of child and women's nutrition and development in every household.
- The mascot has been named as 'Tikki Mausi' in reference to the second mother of a child. It is projected to spread awareness for better health care of children and their development.

- It will also take care of providing the right information about government projects for women and children to every household for better future of the children in the state.

#### **10. Odisha to implement 'One Nation, One Ration Card' from Sept 1**

The Odisha government said it would implement the Centre's 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme on a pilot basis in Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) jurisdiction from September 1.

- Beneficiaries collecting ration under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and are covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), and the State Food Security Scheme can avail the facility of portability of ration cards offered by the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme.
- However, beneficiaries will have to link their ration cards with Aadhaar numbers to avail the facility.
- The beneficiaries will have to give their fingerprints on a machine to avail rations.
- Those who do not link their Aadhaar numbers with the ration cards will not get their ration.

#### **11. Former Kalahandi king Udit Pratap Deo dies**

Udit Pratap Deo, former king of the erstwhile princely state of Kalahandi, has breathed his last at a private hospital here. He was 71 years old. Deo was a former lawmaker from Junagarh Assembly segment in Odisha from 1974 to 1977. Deo and his queen Padma Manjari Devi had joined the Bharatiya Janata Party.

#### **12. Sarala Puraskar for Odia writer Pradeep Dash**

- Noted Odia writer Pradeep Dash will be conferred with the 40th edition of prestigious Sarala Puraskar for his poetry work Charu Chibar O Charjya.
- The annual award, comprising a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a citation, will be presented at a special function to be held on October 26.
- Two more notable personalities of Odisha will be honoured for their valuable contribution in the field of music and art. While Pandit Harmohan Khuntia will be awarded 'Ila Panda Sangeet Samman', Lalat Mohan Patnaik will receive 'Ila Panda Chitrakala Samman'.

#### **About Sarala Puraskar:**

The annual Sarala Puraskar instituted by eminent Odia industrialist Late Bansidhar Panda and Late Ila Panda in 1979, has been continuously awarded by Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT). The IMPACT is the charitable wing of IMFA Ltd, the leading and the only fully integrated producer of ferroalloys in India. Sarala Puraskar is recognised as the foremost literary award of Odisha. This award is one of the finest contributions of IMPACT to glorify Odia literature.

**13. 23-Year Old Becomes First Woman Pilot From Odisha's Maoist-hit Region:**

Anupriya Lakra, aged 27, a tribal woman from Odisha's Maoist-hit Malkangiri district (tribal area) has become the first female pilot from the backward region. She will join a private airline as a co-pilot.

**14. Senior journalist Dilip Satpathy dies**

Senior journalist Dilip Satpathy died here late on Sunday night. He was diagnosed with bone marrow cancer 20 years ago, which had relapsed three years ago.

During his stint at various media houses, Satpathy had displayed superb acumen and remarkable intelligence to put issues in proper perspective. Satpathy had begun his career as a reporter in a city-based English daily and went on to become the Resident Editor of the Bhubaneswar edition of Business Standard. Hailing from Cuttack, Satpathy came into prominence for his in-depth knowledge of economics and business apart from political reporting.

**15. Brahmos supersonic cruise missile with major indigenous systems test-fired**

**successfully:**

The missile was successfully test-fired from Chandipur in Odisha for its full range of 290-km during the launch jointly conducted by DRDO and BrahMos Aerospace.

With this successful mission, the indigenous content in the formidable weapon has reached a high value, thus bolstering India's defence indigenisation and the flagship 'Make in India' programme.

Jointly developed by India and Russia, the versatile Brahmos has been operationalised in the Indian Armed Forces with all the three services.