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## Important Facts for Prelims (15th December 2018)

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### India Post Launches E-commerce Portal

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- The **Department of Post**, under Ministry of Communications, has launched an **e-Commerce portal**.
- It will provide an **e-marketplace to sellers** who have been left behind in e-Commerce space like **rural artisans, self-help groups, women entrepreneurs, state and central PSUs and autonomous bodies** to sell their products to buyers across the country.
- India Post will be able to leverage its vast postal network for e-commerce services for doorstep delivery of products.

### India Post's Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana

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- **Department of Posts, under Ministry of Communications**, has presented scholarship to students under **Deen Dayal SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby) Yojana**.
- Deen Dayal SPARSH yojana was launched to **promote philately**.
- Under this annual scholarships is awarded to children of **Standard VI to IX having good academic record** and also pursuing **Philately as a hobby** through a competitive selection process in all postal circles.

### Meghdoot Award

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- Department of Post under Ministry of Communications, presented the Meghdoot Award to **Grameen Dak Sevaks** and **employees** of the department.
- The scheme of National awards known as 'Meghdoot Awards' was **instituted in the year 1984** to provide encouragement to the postal employees by recognizing performance of high standard.
- The awards given for outstanding contribution in the sphere of official work are given in eight categories.

## Mahila Kisan Awards

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- **DD Kisan under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** has launched a first-of-its-kind **reality show 'Mahila Kisan Awards'**. The show will see participation of **women farmers from across India**.
- The format of the show will include two women farmers talking about their achievements in each episode. Judges will score these contestants based on their assessment.
- The five contestants who get the highest scores during the show will reach the finals, where one of them will be declared the winner.
- The show is also expected to act as a source of inspiration for lakhs of women across the country watching the show.

## Jnanpith Award conferred on Amitav Ghosh

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- **Amitav Ghosh** has won the **54<sup>th</sup> Jnanpith award (Jnanpith Award-2018)** for his contribution to literature.
- It is the first time since its inception that the Jnanpith is awarded to a **writer in English language**.
- He was born in 1956, and writes both fiction and non-fiction. He has written many novels and essays. Few of his important works are: **Circle of Reason, In An Antique Land, The Shadow Lines (this novel won him Sahitya Akademi award), Trilogy about the opium trade and colonialism- 'Sea of Poppies', 'River of Smoke' and 'Flood of Fire'**.
- His most recent book, **The Great Derangement; Climate Change and the Unthinkable**, was released in 2016.
- He has also won the **Sahitya Akademi Award** and the **Padma Shri**.
- The award was **established in 1961**. It is presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith to an author for their "outstanding contribution towards literature". It is bestowed **only on living Indian writers** writing in Indian languages included in the **Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India and English**.
- The previous Jnanpith winners include India's greatest writers across its many languages, like Mahasweta Devi, Amrita Pritam, UR Ananthamurthy and Shrilal Shukla.

## HC Quashes Centre's Ban on Oxytocin Manufacture

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- The **Delhi high court quashed** the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's decision to ban the manufacture and sale of Oxytocin. The court said the decision was arbitrary, unreasonable and unscientific.
- It termed the ban "**arbitrary and unreasonable**", which did not seem to be based on any scientific study. The court also observed that **oxytocin was an essential life saving drug**.

- Earlier this year, the government had restricted the manufacture of oxytocin formulations for domestic use to public sector only. The **state-run Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd (KAPL)** was solely allowed to produce the drug for domestic use.
- The court observed that the Centre's decision to allow **only a single, state-run entity with no prior experience** in manufacturing Oxytocin may lead to scarcity of the drug which can cause increase in maternal fatalities, during childbirth, **impairing lives** of thousands of innocent young mothers.