



# drishti

## Important Facts for Prelims (28th January 2019)

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### 'BHARAT PARV'

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- The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Bharat Parv is being organized by **Ministry of Tourism** in collaboration with other central Ministries and State Governments from 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019.
- The prime **objective** is to generate a patriotic mood, promote the rich cultural diversity of the country, to promote the idea of '**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**'.
- It includes highlights of the Republic Day Parade Tableaux, Performances by the Armed Forces Bands (static and moving), a Multi-Cuisine Food Court, Crafts Mela , Cultural Performances from different regions of the country.

### Bharat Ratna Award

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- President Ramnath Kovind conferred the Bharat Ratna, on former President **Pranab Mukherjee**, along with social activist **Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumous)**, and Assamese musician **Bhupen Hazarika (posthumous)**.
- The **Bharat Ratna (Jewel of India)**, instituted in 1954 is the highest civilian award of the Republic of India.
- It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour.
- The recommendations for the Bharat Ratna are made by the **Prime Minister** to the President with a maximum of three nominees being awarded per year.
- Recipients receive a **Sanad** (certificate) signed by the President and a peepal-leaf-Shaped medallion; there is no monetary grant associated with the award.
- Bharat Ratna recipients rank **seventh** in the Indian order of precedence.

### DAMaN Initiative: Odisha

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- Odisha Government had launched a malaria control programme – "**Durgama Anchalare Malaria Nirakaran (DAMaN)**" initiative.

- This programme involves mass screening for malaria with treatment of positive cases along with intensified surveillance, mosquito control measures and regular health education activities throughout the year.
- For mass screening and treatment of patients in inaccessible areas, District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2), an open-source web-based surveillance for malaria is used.
- Odisha, which accounts for over 40% per cent malaria burden of the entire country, has reported about 85% decline in average monthly malaria cases in the State.

## Malaria

- Malaria, is caused by protozoan parasite plasmodium.
- When this mosquito bites, the parasite is released into the bloodstream. The parasites continue to infect red blood cells.
- Malaria is typically found in tropical and subtropical climates where the parasites can live.
- According to The World Health Organization's **World Malaria Report of 2018**; India is the only country among the 11 highest-burden countries that saw substantial progress in reducing disease burden.
- India had pledged to eliminate the disease by 2030 at the East Asia Summit, 2015.
- India has launched the five-year **National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination (NSPME) (2017-2022)**.
- This has marked a shift in focus from malaria **"control"** to **"elimination"**.
- **NSPME** includes the target of ending malaria in 571 districts out of India's 678 districts by 2022.

## National Chilika Bird Festival

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- Recently the second **National Chilika Bird Festival** kickstarted at Mangalajodi in Chilika.
- The festival is organised to promote eco-tourism and preservation of birds in Odisha.
- **National Chilika Bird Festival Award** was given to Mangalajodi Eco-tourism Group for their active involvement in bird protection.
- Mangalajodi, situated in the North Eastern Part of Chilika, is known as the **"Birds Paradise of Asia"** as the place witnesses the highest gathering of more than 10 Lakh species of birds.
- Chilika Lake lies in the Central Asian Flyway stopover site for migratory birds from the Arctic and Sub-Arctic regions during their onward and return migration along the east coast.
- Chilika lake, located in the coastal Odisha is **Asia's largest brackish water lagoon**.
- Chilika lake with its rich bio-diversity and socio-economic importance has been a designated **Ramsar site** (a wetland of international importance) since 1981.

- Another major attraction at Chilika is Irrawaddy dolphins which are often spotted off **Satapada Island** in Chilka Lake.

## TRAIN 18

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- Indian Railways' fastest train, **Train 18** named, **Vande Bharat Express**.
- India's first engineless semi-high speed train – "Train 18" - was rolled out by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- **Features:** CCTV cameras, diffused lighting, automatic doors and footsteps, GPS-based passenger information system.
- Train 18 was the only new train announced in Budget-2018. It is manufactured under the 'Make in India' initiative at half the cost of import.
- The railways will now focus on another project – Train 20 - the next generation aluminium-bodied sleeper class trains that will replace the Rajdhani Express trains and is expected to be rolled out by 2020.