

Current Affairs 10 January 2019 with PDF

Economy

GST exemption limit for MSMEs doubled

- In a major relief to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), **the GST Council chaired by finance minister Arun Jaitley on January 10, 2019 doubled the GST exemption limit for companies in the sector to those with an annual turnover of Rs 40 lakh from the current Rs 20 lakh.** For North East and hilly states, the limit has **been increased to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh.**
- The move to raise the threshold for GST registration is significant considering that small businesses have been hit by the government's move to demonetise high-value currency notes in November 2016, business disruption in the early days of GST implementation and a credit squeeze in recent months.
- Bringing about major changes in the composition scheme, **the current turnover limit was increased to Rs 1.5 crore from Rs 1 crore.**
- Service providers with a turnover of up to Rs 50 lakh can now avail the composition scheme as well at a rate of 6 per cent. Those who avail the scheme will have to file tax on a quarterly basis, though returns can be filed annually.

India and states

Selection Committee chaired by PM removes Alok Verma as CBI Chief

- **CBI Director Alok Verma**, who was reinstated to the post by the Supreme Court on Tuesday, **has been transferred.**
- He was on Thursday appointed **Director General, Fire Services, Civil Defence and Home Guards.**
- The Selection Committee, **headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which appoints the CBI chief took the decision.**
- The three-member committee also comprises Leader of the single largest Opposition party in Lok Sabha **Mallikarjun Kharge** and Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi's nominee, **Justice A K Sikri.**
- Sources said the committee found Alok Verma's continuance in the post detrimental to institutional integrity. The decision was taken by a majority with Mallikarjun Kharge opposing the move.
- **The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet said M Nageshwar Rao, presently Additional Director, CBI will look after the duties of the Director.**

Women and Child Development Ministry launches '#www: WebWonderWomen' Campaign

- The **Union Ministry of Women and Child Development** on January 9, 2018 launched an online campaign, **'Web - Wonder Women' also known as '#www'.**
- The Campaign aims to discover and celebrate the exceptional achievements of women, who have been driving positive agenda of social change through the social media itself.
- The **Ministry partnered with the Breakthrough and Twitter India for '#www: WebWonderWomen' campaign.**
- Through the '#www: WebWonderWomen', the Ministry and the Campaign's Partners aim to recognise the strength of Indian women stalwarts from across the globe who have used the power of social media to run positive campaigns to steer a change in society.
- **The Campaign will recognise and acknowledge the efforts of these meritorious Women.**

- The Campaign invites Entries through nominations from across the world as per the laid out criteria. Nominations will be open till January 31, 2019.

Cabinet approves establishment of three new AIIMS

- The Cabinet on Thursday **approved the establishment of three more All India Institute of Medical Sciences, AIIMS** to boost healthcare infrastructure in the country.
- Two of them will be set up in **Jammu and Kashmir's Samba** and **Pulwama district**. The third AIIMS will be set up at **Rajkot in Gujarat**.

Days

World Hindi Day 2019 observed

- **World Hindi Day is celebrated on January 10 every year**, marking the anniversary of first World Hindi Conference which was held in 1975. The first World Hindi Conference was inaugurated by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi.
- Since 1975, the World Hindi Conference has been organised in **different countries like India, Mauritius, United Kingdom, Trinidad and Tobago, United States**.
- **World Hindi Day was first observed on January 10, 2006**. Since then, it is celebrated on January 10 every year.
- **National Hindi Diwas is celebrated every year on September 14**. On that day in 1949, the constituent assembly adopted Hindi, written in Devanagari script, as the official language of the Union.
- While the focus of the World Hindi Day is to promote the language at the global stage, the National Hindi Diwas, which is held across the country at a national level, marks adaptation of Hindi, written in Devanagari script as the official language

Sports

Mary Kom becomes 'World No 1' Boxer in latest AIBA World Rankings

- **MC Mary Kom became the World No 1 Boxer in 45-48 kg category in the latest International Boxing Association's (AIBA) World Rankings released** on January 10, 2019.
- Mary Kom was placed by AIBA at top of the charts in the 45-48 kg category weight division with 1700 points.
- **'Magnificent Mary'** became the most successful boxer in world championships history when she claimed the 48kg category top honours in November 2018, her unprecedented sixth world title triumph.
- **She is also the only woman boxer to have won a medal in each one of the seven world championships. She once won silver.**
- **She is the only Indian woman boxer to have qualified for the 2012 Summer Olympics**, competing in the flyweight (51 kg) category and winning the bronze medal.

ICC offers amnesty for Sri Lankan cricketers to report match-fixing approaches

- **The International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced on January 10, **2019 that it would be giving a 15-day amnesty** to participants who have previously failed to report any information concerning corrupt conduct in **Sri Lankan cricket**.
- The amnesty, which will run from 16-31 January, will apply to all participants under both the ICC and Sri Lankan Cricket Anti-Corruption codes.

- Under these codes, both domestic and international participants are obliged to report, without delay, full details of any approaches, incident or information that they receive to engage in corrupt conduct. Failure to do so is a serious offence and can result in a ban from cricket of up to five years.
- **This is the first time the ICC has held an amnesty to face very specific challenges in Sri Lanka.**

Harendra Singh removed as head coach of Indian men's hockey team

- Indian men's hockey coach **Harendra Singh** was on **January 9, 2019** sacked from the position and offered the **task of helming the junior squad by the national federation.**
- Explaining the sudden decision, Hockey India said in a statement that though the year 2018 was very disappointing for the Indian Men's Hockey Team with results not going as expected, they believe investing in the junior program will reap long-term benefits.