

December - 16

TAMIL NADU

Protected monuments of Tamilnadu

- ❖ The Tamilnadu State government announced following two monuments in the State as protected sites.
 - Ammakulam at Keezhravanthavadi village in Tiruvannamalai district and
 - An elephant statue at Azhagarmalai village in Ariyalur district.
- ❖ Ammakulam might date back to the 16th century during the reign of the Nayakkar kings.
- ❖ The elephant statue at Azhagarmalai likely dates back to 16th -17th century.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu archaeology department has already had 92 protected ancient monuments under its control.



NATIONAL

VISVAS Scheme

- ❖ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will introduce Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayta (VISVAS) scheme.
- ❖ It is an interest subvention scheme for the self-help groups (SHGs) or SCs and OBCs households with an annual income of up to ₹3 lakh.

INTERNATIONAL

2020 Goldman Environmental Prize

- ❖ It is a prize awarded annually to grassroots environmental activists, one from each of the world's six geographic regions - Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands & Island Nations, North America, and South & Central America.
- ❖ It is also called the Green Nobel.
- ❖ The award is given by the Goldman Environmental Foundation headquartered in San Francisco, California.
- ❖ 2020 Award list
 - Chibeze Ezekiel, Ghana
 - Kristal Ambrose, The Bahamas
 - Leydy Pech, Mexico
 - Lucie Pinson, France
 - Nemonte Nenquimo, Ecuador
 - Paul Sein Twa, Myanmar



UNESCO Educational Report

- ❖ UNESCO launched '2020 State of the Education Report for India: Vocational Education First'.
- ❖ It is one of UNESCO New Delhi's flagship reports to be published annually.

- ❖ Its main objective will be to monitor progress towards the education targets in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ The second edition of this Report focuses on technical and vocational education and training (TVET).
- ❖ The National Policy of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship claims to skill 150 Million Indian people by 2022.
- ❖ It was launched in 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Narrow Band IoT Network

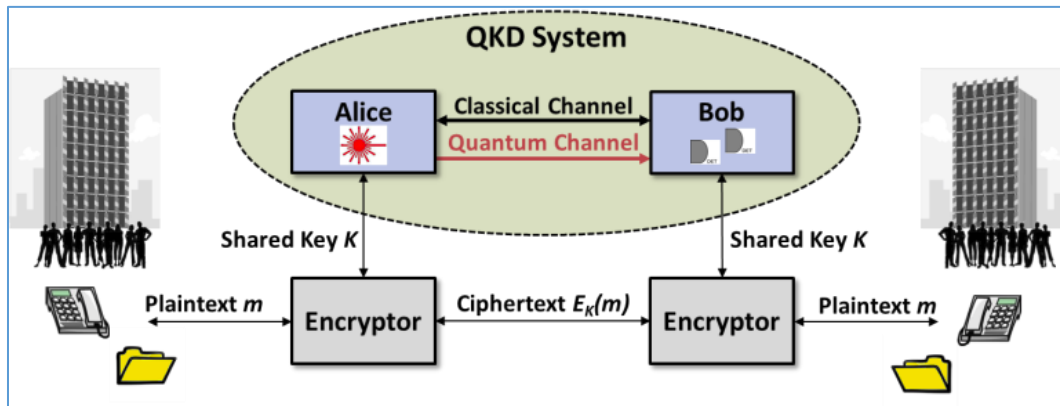
- ❖ The BSNL along with the Skylo has launched the world first satellite based narrow band internet of things network in India.
- ❖ This is to bring a breakthrough in satellite based narrowband internet of things technology.
- ❖ It is a Low Power Wide Area (LPWA) technology that was developed to enable wide range of new internet of things devices.
- ❖ It mainly improves the power consumption of the devices, spectrum efficiency and system capacity.
- ❖ The technology is highly affordable to connect two vehicles and other IoT devices.

Data Sonification

- ❖ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently shared a sonification video of crab Nebula.
- ❖ The video shows Nebula being transformed into music based on its different colors.
- ❖ The blue shades were translated into bass and white shades into to wood winds.
- ❖ Nebula is an interstellar cloud of hydrogen, dust, Helium and ionized gases.
- ❖ Data sonification is the use of sound to represent data.

Quantum key distribution (QKD)

- ❖ The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully demonstrated communication between its two labs using Quantum Key Distribution technology.
- ❖ The Defense Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and The Research Centre Imarat (RCI) were the two labs that participated in this demonstration.



ENVIRONMENT

Micro-climatic Zone Shifting

- ❖ The study on “Preparing India for climate events” was recently published by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water.
- ❖ This is the first time the extreme weather event hotspots in India have been mapped.
- ❖ The study has found that frequency of flood events has increased by eight times in the last 50 years in the country.
- ❖ Maharashtra is the most affected state of the micro climatic zone shifting.
- ❖ The extreme climate events include floods, cyclones, heat and cold waves.
- ❖ This change in climatic patterns within a small area or a district is called micro climatic zone shifting.

Emissions Gap Report 2020

- ❖ This annual report is released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).



- ❖ It measures the gap between anticipated emissions and levels consistent with the Paris Agreement goals of limiting global warming this century to well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C.
- ❖ G20 countries account for the bulk of emissions.

CO2 emissions drop

- ❖ The global carbon dioxide emissions reportedly dropped by 7 percent in the year 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Ground transportation reportedly makes up about one-fifth of emissions of carbon dioxide.
- ❖ It was as per a study published in the journal Earth System Science Data.
- ❖ The Global Carbon Project had calculated that the world will have put 37 billion US tons of carbon dioxide in the air in 2020.
- ❖ It is down from 40.1 billion US tons of CO2 emitted in 2019.
- ❖ This project is a group of international scientists who track emissions.

Climate Ambition Summit 2020

- ❖ The summit was co-hosted by United Nations, France, and the United Kingdom to mark the 5th anniversary of the Paris Agreement.
- ❖ The UN Chief has urged the leaders of the nations to declare a 'state of climate emergency' until they are able to achieve carbon neutrality.
- ❖ Prime Minister of India highlighted that India's renewable energy capacity is the 4th largest in the world and it will reach 175 GigaWatts in 2022.
- ❖ He also informed that the country has an even more ambitious target of achieving 450 GigaWatts of renewable energy capacity by the year 2030.
- ❖ India is on track to achieve its Paris Agreement targets.
- ❖ India has reduced its carbon emission intensity by 21% over 2005 levels.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

2020 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians

- ❖ It was awarded to Dr Carolina Araujo, Mathematician from the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- ❖ The prize is awarded annually to a researcher from a developing country funded by the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India in association with ICTP (International Centre for Theoretical Physics), and the International Mathematical Union (IMU).
- ❖ It was given for her outstanding work in algebraic geometry.
- ❖ She is the first non-Indian women mathematician to receive this prize.
- ❖ Dr. Araujo is Vice President of the Committee for Women in Mathematics at the International Mathematical Union.

SPORTS

India Sports Awards 2020

- ❖ The India Sports Awards - 2020 were presented by the Federation of Indian Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has been awarded the "Best State Promoting Sports Award".
- ❖ The wrestler Bajrang Punia and shooter Elavenil Valarivan won the Sportsperson of the Year awards.
- ❖ Cricket legend Anil Kumble received the 'Best Company Promoting Sports (Private Sector)' award on behalf of his enterprise – Tenvic Sports.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Energy Conservation Day – December 14

- ❖ The day focuses on making people aware of global warming and climate change and promotes efforts towards saving energy resources.
- ❖ In India, Energy Conservation Act was implemented by the Energy Efficiency Bureau (BEE) in 2001.

- ❖ The BEE is a body that works under the jurisdiction of the Government of India and formulates policies regarding the use of energy.

