

December - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The winter session of the Parliament is likely to be cancelled due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - This was informed by the Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi.
- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard interceptor boat was commissioned at Hazira in Gujarat.
- ❖ The United States electoral college has formally validated the victory of Joe Biden giving him 306 votes.
- ❖ On December 14, 2020, Bangladesh marked the Martyred Intellectuals Day.
 - It is marked to commemorate the 1971 genocide in Bangladesh.

NATIONAL

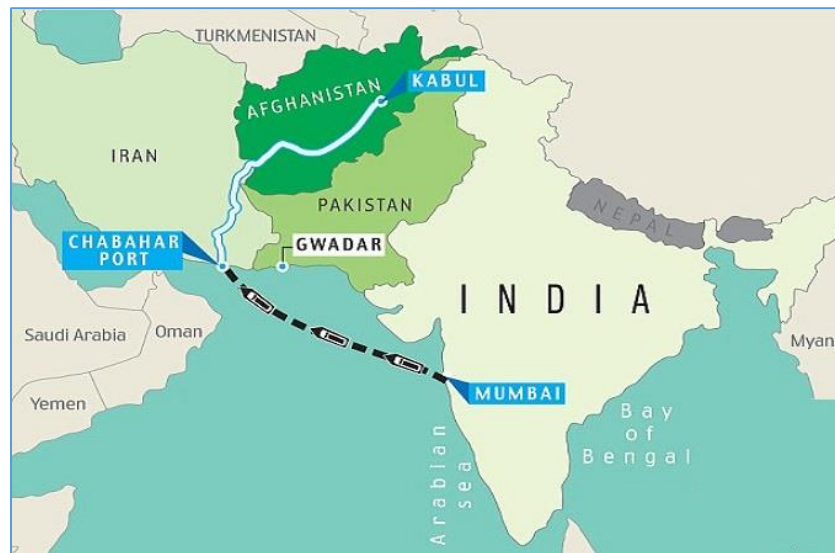
Postal Voting

- ❖ The Election Commission has named a few countries where it would like to have postal voting introduced for NRIs on a pilot basis.
- ❖ The proposal may get implemented first for voters based in the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, Australia, Germany, France, and South Africa.
- ❖ Out of 1.18 lakh NRI voters, the largest number (about 89,000) are registered to vote in Kerala.
- ❖ The second-largest cohort (roughly 7,500) are registered in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ India's diaspora population is the largest in the world at 16 million people.
- ❖ Voting rights for NRIs were introduced only in 2011, through an amendment to the Representation of the People Act 1950.
- ❖ An NRI can vote in the constituency in which their place of residence, as mentioned in the passport, is located.
- ❖ They can only vote in person and will have to produce their passport in original at the polling station for establishing identity.

INTERNATIONAL

TWG Meeting on Chabahar Port

- ❖ The first Trilateral Working Group Meeting between India, Iran and Uzbekistan on the joint use of Chabahar Port was held.
- ❖ India has proposed to observe "Chabahar Day" on the side lines of the International Maritime Summit to be hosted by India in January 2021.



ECONOMY

Spectrum auction

- ❖ The Union cabinet approved the next round auction of spectrum.
- ❖ It is in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz & 2500 MHz frequency bands, for the validity period of 20 years.
- ❖ A total of 2251.25 MHz is being offered with a total valuation of Rs 3,92,332.70 crore at the reserve price.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

S-400 Triumf

- ❖ The United States has imposed sanctions on Turkey over its acquisition of Russian S-400 air defence systems.
- ❖ The S-400 Triumf is a mobile, surface-to-air missile system (SAM) designed by Russia.

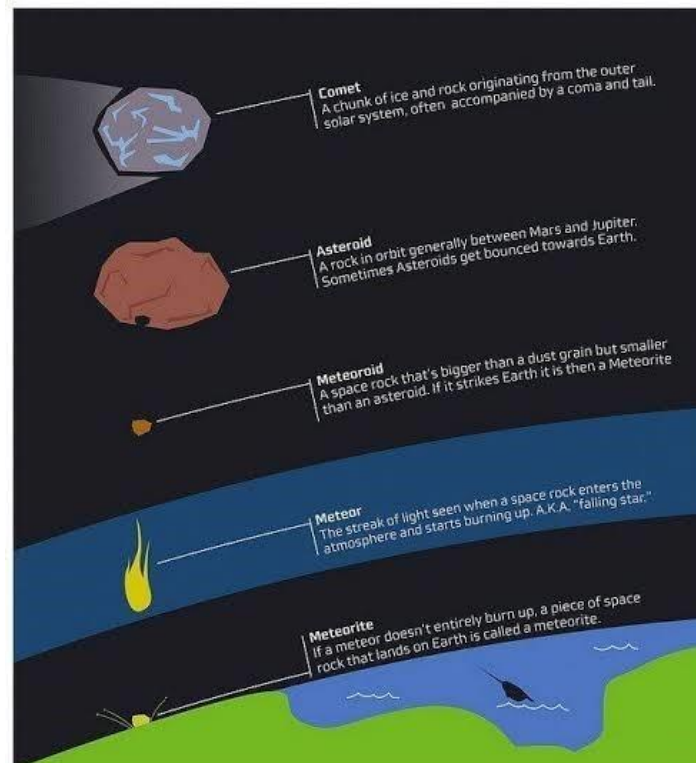
- ❖ It is the most dangerous operationally deployed and modern long-range in the world.
- ❖ It is considered much ahead of the US-developed Terminal High Altitude Area Défense system (THAAD).
- ❖ Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act's (CAATSA) core objective is to counter Iran, Russia and North Korea through punitive measures.

S-400 Triumph air defense missile system

Alphanumerical code	Designation	Specifications:
Russian Army: S-400 NATO reporting name SA-21 Growler	A surface-to-air missile system designed to engage with all types of aerial targets (aircraft, UAVs, cruise missiles, etc.) with a range of 400 km (250 miles) and an altitude of 30 km (10,000 feet)	Operational range: – for aerodynamic targets 3 km to 240 km – for ballistic targets 5 km to 60 km Altitude of up to 30 km (10,000 feet) Maximum target speed of up to 4,800 m/s Deployment time of 5-10 min. Missiles per system up to 48 (384 in all)
		Composition
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Command & Control System • Several different radar units • Up to 8 medium- and long-range surface-to-air missile systems (up to 12 missiles per system) • 48N6E, 48N6E2, 9M96E, 9M96E2 midrange guided missiles and a 40N6E long-range missile Technical specifications

Geminids Meteor Shower

- ❖ It is believed to be the strongest of the year.
- ❖ They are unique because their origin does not lie at a comet.
- ❖ Its origin is believed to be an asteroid or an extinct comet named as 3200 Phaethon.
- ❖ Soon after the Geminids, viewers in the northern hemisphere can expect to see the Ursids meteor shower.
- ❖ However, the rate of Ursids is much less than Geminids.
- ❖ Meteors are bits of rock and ice that are ejected from comets as they manoeuvre around their orbits around the sun.
- ❖ Meteor showers are witnessed when Earth passes through the trail of debris left behind by a comet or an asteroid.



ENVIRONMENT

Muraina grass

- ❖ Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, has recently spotted a new species of Muraina grass.
- ❖ A new and tolerant species has been spotted in Goa in the Western Ghats.
- ❖ It is a genus of grass, widespread in tropical and semitropical regions.

Kutch renewable energy generation park

- ❖ This park near Vighakot village in Kutch in Gujarat will be India's largest renewable energy generation park.
- ❖ It will lead to the generation of renewable energy to the tune of 30 Gigawatt.
- ❖ It has dedicated zones for wind and solar energy storage.

Himalayan serow

- ❖ It was sighted for the first time in the Himalayan cold desert region (Himachal Pradesh).
- ❖ Himalayan serow resembles a cross between a goat, a donkey, a cow, and a pig.
- ❖ It is categorised as 'vulnerable' in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- ❖ It is listed under Schedule I of The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.



STATES

MahaSharad

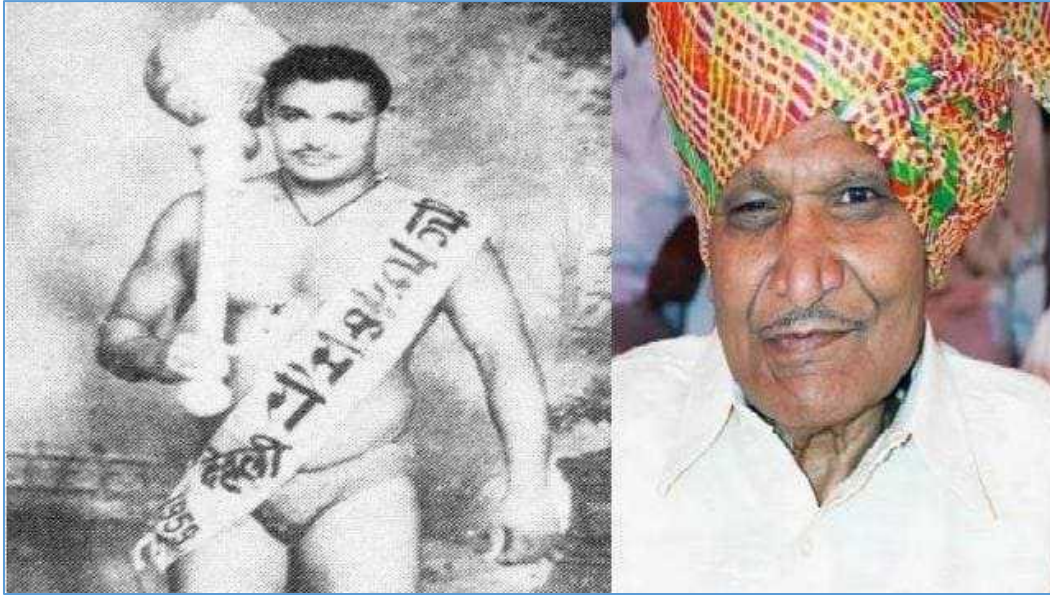
- ❖ Maharashtra is set to launch an ambitious scheme for distribution of assistive devices to persons with disabilities.
- ❖ The Digital Platform is named after the NCP chief Sharad Pawar.
- ❖ It is named as Maharashtra System for Health and Rehabilitation Assistance or 'MahaSharad'.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Hind Kesari

- ❖ Shripati Khanchanale was a renowned wrestler.
- ❖ He recently passed away (86) in Kolhapur, Maharashtra.

- ❖ He won the prestigious title 'Hind Kesari' in 1959 by defeating the wrestler Rustam-e-Punjab Battasingh.



SPORTS

15th Men's Hockey World Cup

- ❖ The 2023 Hockey World Cup will have Rourkela city in Odisha as a second venue along with Odisha's capital Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ Rourkela is known as the cradle of hockey as it has produced many international hockey stars.
- ❖ The 2018 Hockey World Cup was also held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, India.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Swarnim Vijay Mashaal – December 16

- ❖ Prime Minister lights up 'Swarnim Vijay Mashaal' at the National War Memorial in Delhi.
- ❖ It is to start the 50th anniversary celebration of India's victory in 1971 Indo-Pakistan war.
- ❖ It led to creation of Bangladesh.
- ❖ The 1971 war also resulted in the largest military surrender after the Second World War.



- ❖ On December 16, India celebrated the 50 years of Indo-Pak war which is also called 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh'.

