

December - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari has ratified the proposal of Parliament dissolution and election dates in 2021.
 - It was presented by Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli.
- ❖ Anshu Malik won a silver medal in the wrestling World Cup in Serbia.
 - It was India's first medal at the Individual World Cup in Belgrade, Serbia.

NATIONAL

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom skill excellence awards

- ❖ The Union Minister of Communications and Electronics and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad presented Telecom Skill Excellence Awards.
- ❖ The first prize was won by Srinivas Karanam.
- ❖ He won the award for developing a cost-effective technical solution for deep sea communication.



E5 Series Shinkansen

- ❖ Japan recently released the first glimpse of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed bullet train project.
- ❖ The E5 Series Shinkansen trains are to be used to implement this project.

- ❖ The project is to be completed by 2023.
- ❖ E5 Series Shinkansen are high speed Japanese trains.



Hydrocarbon producing basin

- ❖ The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) opened India's 8th hydrocarbon producing basin.
- ❖ It has been opened at Ashok nagar in West Bengal.
- ❖ It is joining the ranks of Krishna-Godavari (KG), Mumbai Offshore, Assam Shelf, Rajasthan, Cauvery, Assam-Arakan Fold Belt and Cambay.
- ❖ There are 26 sedimentary basins in India.
- ❖ Of these, 16 are on land basins, 7 located both on land and offshore and 3 completely offshore.

The Himalayan trillium

- ❖ It is a common herb of the Himalayas.
- ❖ It was declared 'endangered' by the IUCN.
- ❖ In India, it is found in four states only - Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, and Uttarakhand.



India's 1st CoE for skill development

- ❖ Skill India recently established the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for skill development in power sector.
- ❖ The Centre has been established in the campus of National Institute of Solar Energy, Gurugram, Haryana.
- ❖ The centre is an outcome of collaboration between Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of National Education and Youth (Government of France) and Schneider Electric.

5th Global Technology Summit

- ❖ It was organised virtually by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India in collaboration with Carnegie India (CI).
- ❖ This year's theme was "The Geopolitics of Technology".
- ❖ It is one of the four flagship annual conferences organised by MEA.
- ❖ The other three conferences are the Raisina Dialogue, the Geo-economic dialogue, and the Indian Ocean Conference.

INTERNATIONAL

6th India-Japan Samvad conference

- ❖ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed this through video conferencing.
- ❖ He proposed the creation of a library of all Buddhist literature and scriptures.

- ❖ The first India-Japan Samwad Conference was held in 2015 at Bodh Gaya, India.

Key Highlights

This is the 1st SAMVAD of a new decade. It is happening at a critical moment in human history. Our actions today will shape the discourse in the coming years

This decade & beyond will belong to societies that are **innovative, open-minded, democratic & transparent**

In the past, humanity took the path of confrontation instead of collaboration. **Now, let us rise together; Let SAMVAD bring out the best in us**

We must keep humanism at the core of our policies; We must make harmonious co-existence with nature as the central pillar of our existence

Responding to the pandemic presence and overcrowding

- ❖ It was a report released by the Commonwealth Human Rights initiative.
- ❖ According to the report, the population in Indian prisons has reduced by 10.42% between April 2020 and June 2020 due to covid-19.

20th IORA Council of Ministers

- ❖ The 20th edition of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting held under the Chairmanship of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ❖ All 22 Member States and 10 Dialogue Partners participated in the virtual meeting
- ❖ The theme of the meeting was “Promoting a Shared Destiny and Path to Prosperity in the Indian Ocean”.
- ❖ Sri Lanka has assumed the charge of Vice-Chair of IORA for the period 2021-23.
- ❖ During this meeting, France was inducted as the 23rd member state of IORA.
- ❖ IORA was founded in 1997 with Headquarters at Ebene, Mauritius.



2020 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation

- ❖ Amar Singh College of Srinagar has been awarded the prestigious Award of Merit in under the UNESCO.
- ❖ This is the first international award given to cultural heritage in Kashmir.
- ❖ The Malabari Hall Building, Seva Sadan Society of Mumbai also received the Award of Merit.
- ❖ Delhi's Heritage Park received the Award of Excellence.
- ❖ UNESCO introduced Special Recognition for Sustainable Development in 2020 awards.
- ❖ Sunder Nursery of New Delhi have received this newly introduced award.
- ❖ Also, Koothambalam at Guruvayoor Temple in Kerala's Thrissur has been chosen in the Award of Distinction category.



ECONOMY

Regulatory Sandbox

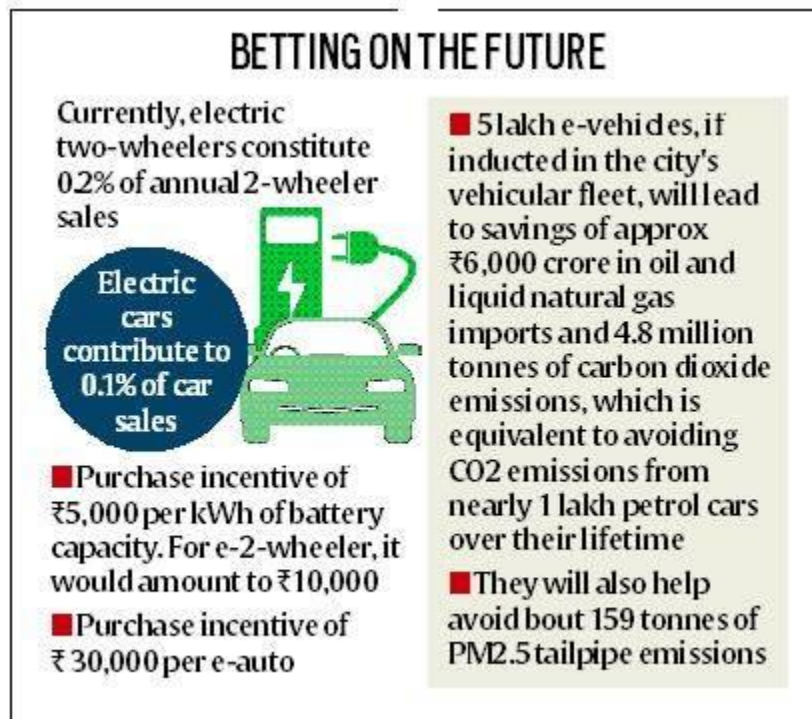
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India recently announced the second cohort under Regulatory Sandbox.
- ❖ It was announced under the theme of “Cross Border Payments”.
- ❖ The Regulatory Sandbox refers to live testing of new products and services in a controlled environment.
- ❖ The first cohort under Regulatory Sandbox included companies in the retail payment space.
- ❖ It included feature phones, contactless payments and offline payments.
- ❖ This was released in 2019.

ENVIRONMENT

E20 Fuel

- ❖ The Government of India has recently introduced the E20 fuel to promote green fuel such as ethanol.
- ❖ India is aspiring to take the ethanol economy to 2 lakh crores of rupees in next 5 years.
- ❖ At present the ethanol economy of India is at 22000 crores rupees.

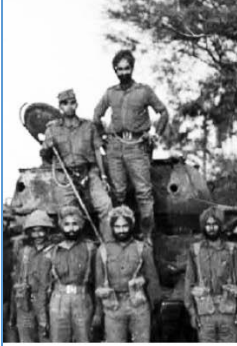

- ❖ E20 means blending of 20% of Ethanol with gasoline.
- ❖ Currently the permissible level of blending is 10% of Ethanol in India.



IMPORTANT DAYS

49th Vijay Diwas – December 16

- ❖ It is celebrated in India every year on December 16.
- ❖ It is to commemorate the victory of the Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the 1971 Indo-Pak War.
- ❖ It is also known as the Bangladesh Liberation War.
- ❖ The India-Pakistan war began on December 16, 1971.
- ❖ It was one of the shortest wars (13 days) and saw one of the biggest surrenders.
- ❖ On December 16, 1971, the Chief of Pakistani forces Abdullah Khan Niazi surrendered along with 93,000 troops to the allied forces of Mukti Bahini and the Indian Army.
- ❖ Vijay Diwas is observed in Bangladesh as Bijoy Dibos.



1971

The Indo-Pak War of 1971 started on Dec 3 when Pakistan launched pre-emptive air strikes on 11 Indian airbases

13 days
the war lasted, after which Pakistan surrendered

3,843 soldiers of India and Bangladesh sacrificed their lives

Strength


 INDIAN ARMY 5,00,000	 BANGLADESH MUKTI BAHINI 1,75,000
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Under Gen Sam Manekshaw, India won & Bangladesh became independent

90,000-93,000 members of the Pakistan Armed Forces were taken as Prisoners of War by the Indian Army

3,65,000 Pakistani Army

9,000 Pakistani soldiers were killed



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