

December - 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ HDFC Bank has tied up with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).
 - This is to offer its banking services to the unbanked and underserved segments in semi-urban and rural areas.
- ❖ The world's first dual-mode vehicle, equally at home on road and rail, made its public debut in the town of Kaiyo in Tokushima Prefecture, Japan.
 - Its road and railway modes can be switched in only about 15 seconds.
- ❖ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari launched the first Intelligent Transport System on Eastern Peripheral Expressway at Dasna, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
 - This is launched in an attempt to minimize traffic woes and enhance the safety of commuters.
- ❖ Mohammed Ben Sulayem of the United Arab Emirates has been elected successor to Jean Todt as the first non-European president of the International Automobile Federation (FIA).
 - The FIA is the governing body for Formula One, the World Rally Championship, World Endurance, and Formula E among other series.
- ❖ TikTok has surpassed the tech giant Google as the most popular website of 2021.
 - This is according to a report by IT security company 'Cloudflare'.
- ❖ The Books written by Tamil scholars Silamboli. Su. Chellappan, Dr. Tho. Paramasivan, Pulavar Ilankumaran, Murugesu Bhagavadhar, Sankaravalli Nayagam, Se. Raasu are nationalized by Tamilnadu government.
- ❖ The Tamilnadu government has raised the annual family income ceiling for beneficiaries of the Chief Minister Health insurance scheme to Rs 1.20 lakh.

TAMIL NADU

The M S Swaminathan Rose

- ❖ M.S. Viraraghavan, a leading horticulturist in the country based in Kodaikanal, has bred a new rose variety and named it "The M S Swaminathan Rose".
- ❖ This rose-wearing magenta-purple is highly disease resistant, according to a release from the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai.
- ❖ Another new variety of roses has been named "Jewel of Monkompou", which was bred by KSG Son.

- ❖ It was bred in a nursery based in Bengaluru, and it is a sparkling pinkish floribunda rose.



National awards



Government of India

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Department of Empowerment of Persons
with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

- ❖ The President Ram Nath Kovind conferred National Awards for outstanding work towards empowerment of persons with disabilities in New Delhi on International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3).
- ❖ AM Venkatakrishnan, S. Elumalai, K. Dinesh, Manakasha Dantapani, K. Jothi and D. Prabhakaran from Tamil Nadu were awarded with this award.

NATIONAL

Soya Meal as an Essential Commodity

- ❖ The government has notified, under the Essential Commodities Act 1955, to declare 'soya meal' as an essential commodity up to 30th June 2022.
- ❖ This step is expected to stop any unfair practices (like hoarding, black marketing, etc) in the market having the potential to hike the prices of soya meal.

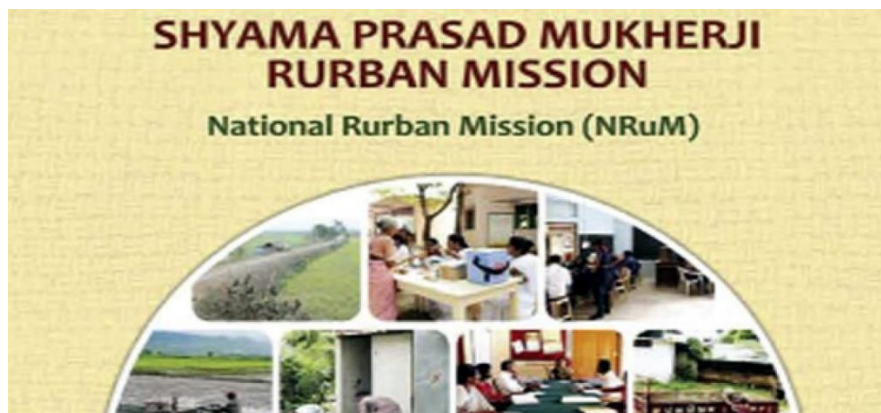
- ❖ This will also enhance the availability of the commodity for consumers like poultry farms and cattle feed manufacturers.

India to chair UNSC Counter terrorism Committee



- ❖ India will chair the Counterterrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in January 2022.
- ❖ India had last chaired this committee in 2011-12.
- ❖ The UNSC Counter-terrorism Committee was formed in September 2001 soon after the tragic 9/11 terrorist attack.
- ❖ This was formed to chart the way forward to fight against terrorism.

Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission



- ❖ Telangana has secured 1st place among the 34 states and Union Territories (UTs) that implement the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu and Gujarat have secured 2nd and 3rd place on the list respectively.



- ❖ The objective of the mission is to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services, and create well-planned Rurban clusters.

Import duty on refined palm oil reduced

- ❖ Concerned over the high prices of cooking oils, the government has reduced the basic customs duty on refined palm oil to 12.5% from 17.5% till March next year.
- ❖ This is to boost domestic supplies and bring down rates in the domestic retail markets.
- ❖ With the reduction in the basic customs duty (BCD), the effective levy (including social welfare cess) on both refined palm oil and refined palmolein will come down to 13.75%, from 19.25%.

ABDM integrated Health Locker



- ❖ Docprime tech has launched India's first health locker integrated with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- ❖ ABDM was launched in August 2020 for developing an integrated digital health infrastructure in the country.
- ❖ ABDM integrated Health Locker will provide users with a digital and self-consented health data management system without any charges.
- ❖ It will store and manage health records electronically.

Vikram Misri

- ❖ Vikram Misri was appointed as India's new deputy National Security Adviser in the National Security Council Secretariat.
- ❖ Misri is a 1989 batch Indian Foreign Service officer.
- ❖ He currently serves as India's Ambassador to China.

- ❖ He will be succeeded by Pradeep Kumar Rawat, who was recently appointed as the next ambassador to China.




STATES

World Sangeet Tansen festival

Department of Tourism and Culture
Govt. of Madhya Pradesh

The best of
Incredible India

HOTELS & RESORTS



World Music Festival
Tansen Samaroh
Gwalior
26th to 30th December, 2020

For venue & more details, visit: <http://tansensamaroh.com/>

Morning Session starts at 10 AM
Evening Session starts at 4 PM

- ❖ In Madhya Pradesh, the 97th edition of the World Sangeet Tansen festival started in Gwalior.
- ❖ A five-day World Sangeet Tansen festival starts from December 25 to December 30 in the city.

- ❖ The stage of the program has been constructed on the theme of the Siddhanath temple situated in Omkareshwar.

Maharashtra government's Shakti Bill

SHAKTI BILL PROPOSES CONVICTS' E-REGISTRY The proposed Act's 2 interconnected bills seek to amend sections of the IPC, CrPC and PocsO Act, and introduce offences to curb crimes against women & children

HIGHLIGHTS

- Severe penalty, including death for rape, acid attack and serious sexual assault of children, and swifter punishment
- Set up special police teams & 36 special courts, each having a special public prosecutor
- Set up an online women and children offenders' registry with convicts' details and link it to the national registry of sex offenders
- Rape, acid attack case trials to be held in-camera



NEW LEGISLATIONS

SEC 354 (E) IPC | Harassment of woman by any mode of communication, including social media
PENALTY | 5 yrs' RI and ₹5L fine

SEC 354 E (2) IPC | Harassment by forcing to respond to 'romantic overtures by physical or electronic means'
PENALTY | 3 yrs' jail, ₹1L fine for 1st offence; up to 5 yrs' jail, ₹5L fine subsequently

SEC 20A, POCSO ACT | Failure to report material or object which is sexually exploitative of a child on any medium to spl juvenile police or local police
PENALTY | 6 months' jail or fine or both

PROPOSED IPC AMENDMENTS (PENALTIES ENHANCED)	SEC 376 Rape Life term or death	SEC 326A Voluntarily causing grievous hurt by use of acid etc Life term or death, fine	SEC 326B Voluntarily throwing or attempting to throw acid, etc Jail for not less than 14 years, may extend up to 20 years
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- ❖ The Maharashtra government's Shakti Criminal Laws (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2020, on crimes against women and children has recommended capital punishment in rape cases.
- ❖ Time-limit of 30 days to complete the probe since the day of registration of the complaint.
- ❖ The earlier version of the Bill had scrapped the provision of anticipatory bail to individuals accused of assault on women.
- ❖ The new recommendations have cancelled this provision taking advice from the senior lawyers.
- ❖ The Bill has also made provision of minimum one year to maximum of three years of imprisonment and ₹1lakh in fine on those who make false complaints of sexual assault.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Global Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award 2021

- ❖ Viral Sudhirbhai Desai has been honoured with this award.

- ❖ He is an industrialist from Surat, who is popularly known as the Greenman or green man of Gujarat.
- ❖ Viral Desai was the only Indian to win the honour for climate change.



SPORTS

National Billiards Championship



- ❖ Pankaj Advani has defended his National Billiards Title by winning his 11th tournament.
- ❖ He defeated Dhruv Sitwala in the final that was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ He represented the Petroleum Sports Promotion Board team.
- ❖ The 88th National Billiards and Snooker Championships 2021, organized by Cue Sports India.

