



December - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ World Design Organization (WDO) will be launching its new global programme 'World Design Protopolis' in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
 - It is aimed at implementing holistic progress in mega cities across the world and making them sustainable.
- ❖ New Development Bank (NDB) has committed \$100 million to India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has warned states about the vulnerability of the Android operating system to a bug called 'StrandHogg'.
 - MHA has rolled out a scheme 'Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)' to combat cyber crime in the country.
- ❖ Reliance Industries has displaced state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to top the Fortune 500 list in India.
 - Fortune 500 list is an annual ranking of the world's wealthiest companies.
- ❖ Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has started a dedicated matrimonial site for its staff.
 - This is the first-ever dedicated and well-managed matrimony portal among the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).
- ❖ Supreme Court of India ordered the Centre and the Delhi Governments to hasten the pilot project of setting up smog towers at Connaught place, New Delhi.
 - Smog Towers are air purification structures that are designed to work as air purifiers.

NATIONAL

Breast milk banks

- ❖ Breast Milk Banks are established under "National Guidelines on Establishment of Lactation Management Centres in Public Health Facilities" by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ It is established for the purpose of collecting, screening, processing, storing and distributing donor human milk at Government Medical Colleges or District.
- ❖ The first Breast Milk Bank of India was established in 1989 at Mumbai.



GIMS or Government Instant Messaging System

- ❖ GIMS is an Indian equivalent of popular messaging platforms, such as WhatsApp and Telegram, for secure internal use.
- ❖ It is Designed and developed by the Kerala unit of National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- ❖ It is being packaged for employees of Central and State government departments and organizations for intra and inter organization communications.
- ❖ Like WhatsApp, GIMS employs end-to-end encryption for one-to-one messaging.

Sustainable development cell - Ministry of Coal

- ❖ The Coal Ministry is going to establish “Sustainable Development Cell” (SDC) to promote environment friendly and sustainable coal mining.
- ❖ The main objective of the cell is to address environmental concerns that arise during closure of mines.
- ❖ The SDC will focus on sustainable mine tourism, mine water management, air quality and sustainable overburden management.
- ❖ The cell will also set up Mine Closure Fund.

Steeling India 2019 – CII

- ❖ Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized the “Steeling India - 2019: Driving metal intensity in key sectors”.
- ❖ The event discussed the strategies to augment steel consumption and to promote steel usage in rural areas.
- ❖ The conference will help India pave ways to achieve its target of 300 MT of production by 2030 (according to National Steel Policy).
- ❖ The event discussed about “Isapti Irada” campaign that aims to increase the appropriate usage of steel in India.
- ❖ P.V Sindhu, Indian Shuttle player is the brand ambassador of Isapti Irada.

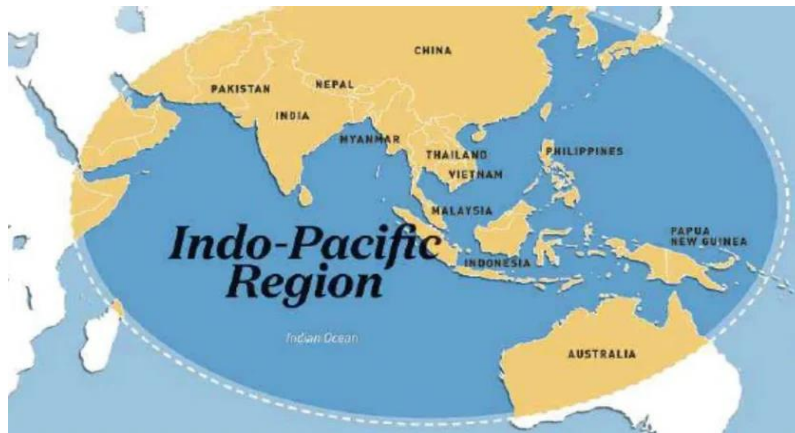
India expands Indo-Pacific Policy - includes Gulf and Africa

- ❖ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced in the joint Indian Ocean Dialogue that India is planning to expand its Indo-Pacific policy.
- ❖ This dialogue was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ So far, the Indo-Pacific covered Indian Ocean and the Arabian sea.

- ❖ With the expansion, the region will now include Gulf states and Africa.

Importance:

- ❖ The expansion will help India in its Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific policy.
- ❖ India's focus is more on the Indian Ocean element of the Indo-Pacific rather than Pacific Ocean element.
- ❖ ASEAN is a very important building block of the Indo-Pacific.



INTERNATIONAL

UN Climate Summit concludes

- ❖ The longest climate talks in the history of United Nations that was held in Madrid, Spain, ended.
- ❖ The key issues that was aimed to get resolved the regulation of carbon market.
- ❖ Carbon market puts prices on carbon dioxide emission.
- ❖ The summit failed to reach an agreement on the implementation of Paris Agreement.
- ❖ The United Nations Environment Programme released
 - Emission Gap Report at the summit
 - It warns that the Earth's average temperature may rise by 3.2 degrees Celsius by 2100.
 - The report of Global Carbon Project (GCP)
 - GCP established in 2001 seeks to quantify global carbon emissions and their causes.
- ❖ The Presidency of the summit, Chile (though summit was held at Madrid, Spain), launched the Climate Ambition Alliance (CAA).

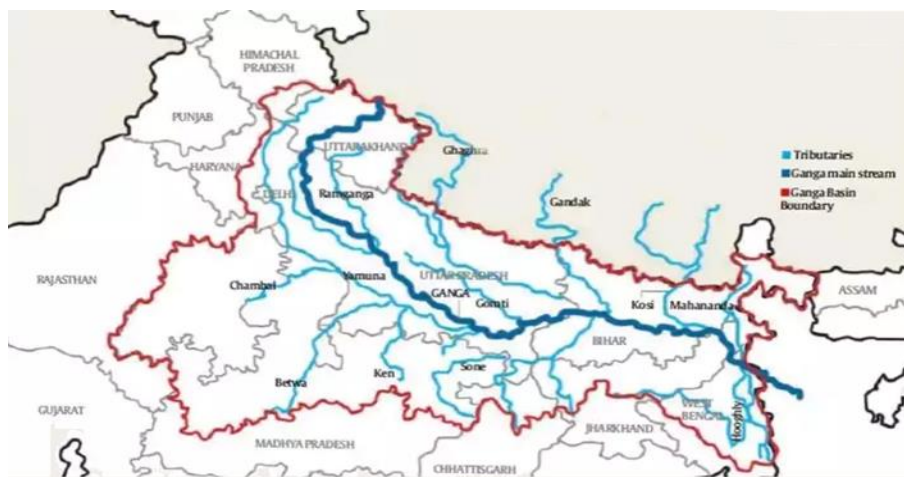
- The CAA will focus on Nationally Determined Contributions in order to achieve Net Zero by 2050.



ENVIRONMENT

National Ganga Council

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the first meeting of the National Ganga Council at Chandra Shekhar Azad Agriculture University of Kanpur (UP).
- ❖ This Council has reviewed the ambitious Namami Gange project.
- ❖ The National Ganga Council is also known as the National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection, and Management of River Ganga.
- ❖ This Council was set up in 2016 formed under the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986.
- ❖ It replaced the National River Ganga Basin Authority (NRGBA).



Carbon neutral village – Meenagnadi

- ❖ Meenagnadi village panchayat, Wayanad, Kerala has taken initiative to become a carbon-neutral village.
- ❖ It involves afforestation programs, recycling of plastic waste, providing lower-emission cooking stoves.
- ❖ Planting and upkeep of the new trees was paid out of MGNREGA funds.

World's oldest cave art – Indonesia

- ❖ According to a study published in the journal “Nature”, the oldest animal drawing has been found in Indonesia.
- ❖ The painting has been discovered in a limestone cave called Leang Bulu'Sipong 4 in the south of Sulawesi, Indonesia.
- ❖ It was dated to nearly 44,000 years ago using uranium-series analysis.



STATES

Andhra Pradesh - Disha Bill

- ❖ The AP Legislative Assembly has passed the Andhra Pradesh Disha Act, 2019 (Andhra Pradesh Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2019).
- ❖ It aims to reduce the judgment period to 21 days from existing judgement period of 4 months.
- ❖ It provides exclusive punishment of death penalty for rape crimes.
- ❖ It provides life imprisonment for sexual offences against children under the POCSO Act, 2012.
- ❖ It Introduces women and children offender's registry to public – First state in India.

Military Literature Festival – Chandigarh

- ❖ The third edition of Military Literature Festival (MLF) held at UT Lake Club, Chandigarh.
- ❖ The festival would bring together the finest men from battle grounds and literary fields to discuss watershed of information on defence issues.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

International Geological Congress

- ❖ India is gearing up to host the 36th International Geological Congress (IGC) in March, 2020.
- ❖ Theme: 'Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Development'.
- ❖ India is the only Asian country to host the event twice.
- ❖ In 1964, India had hosted it for the first time.
- ❖ Geological Survey of India is the nodal agency for organizing the event.

About International Geological Congress

- ❖ It is popularly described as the Olympics of Geosciences.
- ❖ It is a global geoscientific event held once in four years and participated by around 5000-6000 geoscientists from all across the world.

