



December - 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Current Vice Chief of the Army, Lt General Manoj Mukund Naravane, will be the next Chief of Army Staff of India.
 - He will succeed Gen Bipin Rawat, who will retire on the 31st December.
- ❖ Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Nitin Gadkari launched the sale of 'Khadi Rumal' stitched by militancy affected women of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - The aim is to provide employment to the women in the terrorist affected areas of J&K.
- ❖ The Government launched National Broadband Mission, all villages to get broadband access by 2022.
 - The mission envisages an investment of Rs 7 lakh crore to bring internet access to 600,000 villages across the country.

INTERNATIONAL

Global Gender Gap Index 2020

- ❖ India has been ranked 112th among 153 countries in the annual Global Gender Gap Index for 2020.
- ❖ It is published by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- ❖ First gender gap index was published in 2006.
- ❖ Over the Index, the highest possible score is 1 (equality) and the lowest possible score is 0 (inequality).

Key Findings

- ❖ Iceland (closed almost 88%) has been the frontrunner on the Global Gender Gap Index for 11 years in a row.
- ❖ Yemen is ranked the worst (153rd).
- ❖ The largest gender disparity is in political empowerment.
- ❖ India has slipped to the 112th spot from its 108th position in the last edition.
- ❖ Among the 153 countries studied, India is the only country where the economic gender gap (0.354) is larger than the political gender gap (0.411).
- ❖ India's Performance on Four Indicators:
 - Economic Participation and Opportunity - 149th place



- Educational Attainment - 112th place
- Health and Survival - 150th place
- Political Empowerment – 18th place.

**GLOBAL GENDER GAP INDEX
RANKINGS 2020**

Rank	Country	Score
1	Iceland	0.877
2	Norway	0.842
3	Finland	0.832
4	Sweden	0.820
5	Nicaragua	0.804
6	New Zealand	0.799
7	Ireland	0.798
8	Spain	0.795
9	Rwanda	0.791
10	Germany	0.787
21	United Kingdom	0.767
50	Bangladesh	0.726
53	United States	0.724
81	Russian Federation	0.706
92	Brazil	0.691
101	Nepal	0.680
102	Sri Lanka	0.680
106	China	0.676
112	India	0.668
121	Japan	0.652
151	Pakistan	0.564
153	Yemen	0.494

ECONOMY

India gets Loan from Germany

- ❖ India has secured a US \$277 million (about Rs.1,900 crore) loan from Germany.
- ❖ India will use loan to establish an energy-efficient housing programme in the country.
- ❖ The programme shall be part of Indo-German Development Co-operation, guided by 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG).
- ❖ The loan agreement was signed between State Bank of India (SBI) and Germany's KfW Development Bank.

NEFT – 24x7 basis

- ❖ RBI has extended the availability of National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) round-the-clock on all the seven days of the week - 24x7 basis to facilitate beyond the banking hour fund transfer.
- ❖ NEFT is an electronic funds transfer system maintained by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).



- ❖ The setup was established and maintained by Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT).
- ❖ NEFT enables bank customers to transfer funds between any two NEFT enabled bank accounts on a one-to-one basis via electronic messages.

7th Economic Census

- ❖ The Seventh Economic Census (EC) is being conducted nationwide through Common Service Centres (CSC) in 2019.
- ❖ 7th EC is being conducted by Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- ❖ It is expected to be completed by March 2020.
- ❖ This is the first time the census is being conducted digitally.

Indian Economic Census

- ❖ Economic Census is the complete count of all economic establishment located within the geographical boundary of the country.
- ❖ The Indian Economic Census was first launched in 1977.
- ❖ So far 6 censuses have been conducted in the years 1977, 1980, 1990, 1998, 2005, 2013.
- ❖ The economic census 1980 and 1990 were integrated with population census.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Brahmos missile test fire

- ❖ The DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organization) test fired the supersonic Cruise missile Brahmos successfully from Odisha's Chandipur.
- ❖ The medium range missile is capable of being launched from warships, submarines, land or fighter jets.
- ❖ The missile is operational with Indian Navy, Army and Air Force.
- ❖ Philippines confirmed the signing contract with India for medium range Brahmos Cruise Missiles.

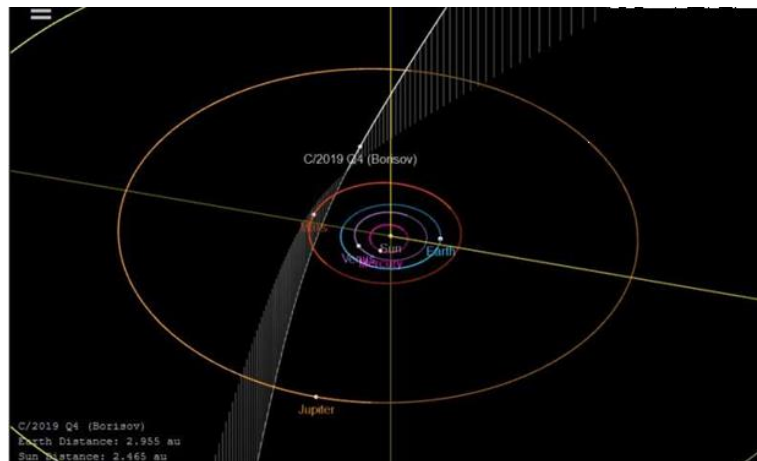
Brahmos Missile

- ❖ Brahmos is a joint venture between DRDO of India and NPOM of Russia.
- ❖ After India entered into MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime) India extended the range of BRAHMOS missile to 600 km.

- ❖ It is also one of the fastest cruise missiles that operates at the speed of 2.8 Mach, which is three times the speed of sound.

2I/Borisov - An Interstellar Object

- ❖ The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has officially declared a recently spotted comet as an interstellar object.
- ❖ The object, provisionally called Comet C/2019, is now dubbed 2I/Borisov.
- ❖ The comet is the second interstellar object scientists have identified.
- ❖ The first was 1I/'Oumuamua, which was first spotted in October 2017.
- ❖ 2I/Borisov has a more hyperbolic path than any other comet.
- ❖ The name Borisov honours its discoverer, astronomer Gennady Borisov from Crimea.



STATES

Gujarat Police honoured with President's Colours

- ❖ Gujarat Police has become the 7th such police force in the country which has received this honour.
- ❖ Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu presented the 'President's Colours' to the Gujarat police.
- ❖ Gujarat Police will wear 'President's Colour' (an emblem) on the left shoulder of uniform on special occasions including a parade.

President's Colours honour:

- ❖ It is the highest honour bestowed upon a police force in recognition of their invaluable contribution to society.

- ❖ President's Colours also called as 'Nishaan'.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

UN medal for Indian peacekeepers

- ❖ About 850 Indian peacekeepers serving in South Sudan have been awarded the prestigious UN medal for their dedication and sacrifice.
- ❖ India is among the largest troop contributing countries to UN peacekeeping operations.
- ❖ Currently, 2,342 Indian troops and 25 police personnel are deployed with the UN Mission in South Sudan.

DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2019

- ❖ Author Amitabha Bagchi has won DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2019, for his novel 'Half the Night is Gone'.
- ❖ This award celebrates literature of the South Asian region.
- ❖ It was instituted in 2010 by its founders, Surina Narula and Manhad Narula.
- ❖ DSC Prize Secretariat is located in New Delhi.

IMTJ Medical Travel Awards 2019

- ❖ Apollo Speciality Cancer Hospital, Chennai has won the award under International cancer centre of the year.
- ❖ The awards celebrate innovation and excellence in the medical travel, medical tourism and health tourism industry.
- ❖ IMTJ was established in 2007 in response to the increasing interest in medical travel and medical tourism.
- ❖ The winners of the IMTJ Medical Travel Awards 2019 were announced at Berlin.

IMPORTANT DAYS

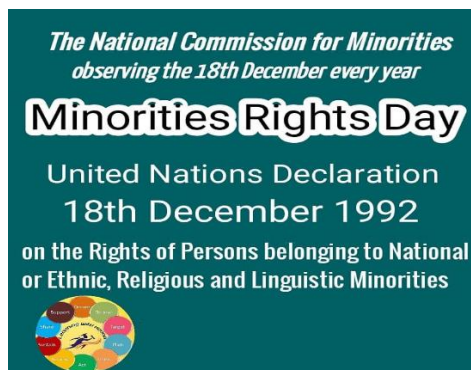
International Migrants Day – December 18

- ❖ It is celebrated through the UN-related agency International Organization for Migration (UN Migration).
- ❖ The theme is #WeTogether.
- ❖ On this day in 1990, the UN adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.



Indian Minorities Rights Day – December 18

- ❖ It focuses on the religious harmony, respect, and better understanding of all minorities' communities in India.
- ❖ The Minorities Rights Day is celebrated by the National Commission for Minorities (NCM).



- ❖ The Government has set up the NCM under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
- ❖ Six religious' communities of India namely Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains have been notified as minority communities in India.

