



December - 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between India's Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and France's National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)
 - Aim of the MoU is to establish a framework for cooperation in support of scientific and technological research.
- ❖ The Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard conducted large scale anti-hijacking exercise called Apharan at Cochin port.
 - This is the first time an anti-hijacking exercise is being conducted at a large scale in India.

NATIONAL

International Financial Services Centre's Authority Bill, 2019

- ❖ The bill was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ❖ The Bill provides for the establishment of an Authority to develop and regulate the financial services market in the International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in India.
- ❖ The Bill will apply to all IFSCs set up under the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005.
- ❖ The central government will appoint nine members to this authority.
- ❖ They have a term of three years, subject to reappointment.
- ❖ According to this bill, all powers exercisable by the respective financial sector regulatory (viz. RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, and PFRDA etc.) shall be solely exercised by the Authority.
- ❖ The first IFSC in India was set up at GIFT City in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Phase III - Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak yojana

- ❖ Union Minister of Rural Development Narendra Singh Tomar launched the third phase of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.
- ❖ The third phase aims at consolidation of 1,25,000 km of connectivity that primarily aiming at rural links connecting Gramin Agricultural Markets.

About Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

- ❖ The scheme was launched in 2000.
- ❖ In 2015, under the recommendation of the 14th finance commission, the project was funded by both centre and state in the ratio 60:40.
- ❖ In the north-eastern states it is set as 90:10.
- ❖ The scheme has used waste plastic and cold mix technology to build major portion of roads.

First time voting usage at GST council

- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman chaired the GST Council Meeting.
- ❖ For the first time, the GST council has used voting process.
- ❖ Council has decided to fix a uniform tax rate of 28% on both state and private lotteries with effect from 1 March 2020.

GeM Samvaad

- ❖ 'GeM Samvaad' was launched by Anup Wadhawan, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Chairman of GeM in New Delhi.
- ❖ This is to bring on-board more local sellers.
- ❖ Through GeM Samvaad marketplace is also looking forward to receive feedback from users for making improvements and advancements in system.

About GeM

- ❖ GeM was launched on 9 August 2016.
- ❖ It has transformed public procurement by leveraging technology and making procurement contactless, paperless, and cashless.



GeM Samvaad is coming to you

Know more about GeM • Have questions answered • Find opportunities

19 DEC 2019 - 17 FEB 2020

The National Outreach Program

19th December: Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab,
Haryana, Chandigarh & Uttarakhand
20th December: Andhra Pradesh

AMRUT mission got extended

- ❖ This scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ❖ Government of India extended the deadline of its flagship scheme AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) by two more years to 2022.

About AMRUT

- ❖ The mission was launched in 2015 by PM Modi for urban renewal by March 2020.
- ❖ The programme was preceded by Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).
- ❖ The Mission will focus on the Thrust Areas like Water Supply, Sewerage management, etc.
- ❖ The Mission covers 500 cities that includes all cities and towns with a population of over one lakh with notified Municipalities.



India-US 2+2 Dialogue

- ❖ India and United States held security dialogue in Washington.
- ❖ This was their second 2+2 dialogue.
- ❖ The countries signed agreements on space exploration and defence cooperation.
- ❖ The agreement will be signed MoU on water resources between India's Ministry of Jal Shakti and US Geological Survey on quality assessment and management of water.
- ❖ The first 2+2 dialogue was held in New Delhi in September 2018.



INTERNATIONAL

Donald Trump impeached by US House

- ❖ Donald Trump became the third President to be impeached by the US House.
- ❖ He was accused of enlisting foreign government to investigate political rival before 2020 election.
- ❖ It is necessary to prove the charges at the senate as well, where a voting process with two-third majority is essential for conviction.
- ❖ So far only two American presidents (Bill Clinton & Andrew Johnson) have been impeached. But they have been acquitted by the Senate.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

First biosimilar medicine to treat Breast Cancer

- ❖ World Health Organization launched its first biosimilar medicine “Trastuzumab” to treat breast cancer.
- ❖ It was included in the WHO Essential Medicines List in 2015.
- ❖ The WHO intends to make the expensive, life-saving treatment affordable for women all over the world.

“Bhibha” and “Santamasa”

- ❖ International Astronomical Union (IAU) named a white yellow star in Sextans Constellation as “Bhibha” and its planet as “Santamasa”.
- ❖ The star has been named in honour of a pioneering Indian woman scientist Bibha Choudhury, who discovered subatomic particle, pi-meson.
- ❖ Bhibha is an ageing star that is 6.2 billion years old and Santamsa is its only planet.
- ❖ The mass of the planet is expected to be 1.5 times as that of Jupiter and is very hot.
- ❖ Santamasa completed its revolution around its star in just about 2.1375 days.
- ❖ Significantly, the 2019 nobel prize in Physics was awarded to the discovery of an exoplanet.



INDIA

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

Number of proposals received in the country:
1717

Number of votes received in the country:
5587

RESULTS

Name of Star:
Bibhā

Brief explanation Name Star:
Bibhā [/bibha/] is the Bengali pronunciation of the Sanskrit word Vibha, which means a bright beam of light.

Name of Exoplanet:
Santamasa

Brief Explanation Name of Exoplanet:
Santamasa [/santamas/] in Sanskrit means clouded, which alludes to the exoplanet's atmosphere.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SYSTEM

Constellation:
Sextans

Star Identification:
HD 86081

Host star type:
yellow, dwarf

Coordinates:
RA 09h56m05.92s
DEC -03d48m30.3s

THEME

Terms from Sanskrit language symbolic of the physical conditions of the star and its planets.

www.iau-100.org
www.nameexoworlds.iau.org

About IAU

- ❖ It was founded in 1919, headquartered in Paris, France.
- ❖ It is the global authority for naming planetary features in the solar system.

STATES

Tripura's first SEZ in Sabroom

- ❖ The Government of India approved the first SEZ (Special Economic Zone) at Sabroom, Tripura.
- ❖ This SEZ will primarily focus on agro-based food processing, rubber-based industries.
- ❖ The SEZ is to be developed by the Tripura Industrial Development Corporation.
- ❖ 100% Income Tax exemption will be provided on export income for SEZ units under Section 10AA of the Income Tax Act for the first 5 years.
- ❖ The SEZ is expected to generate 12,000 skilled jobs and it will attract more investments as its location is nearer to Chittagong Port.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

ICC's annual awards 2019

- ❖ Australian all-rounder Ellyse Perry has won the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for the ICC (International Cricket Council - ICC) Women's Cricketer of the Year.
- ❖ She has been named as the ICC Women's ODI Player of the Year also.
- ❖ Perry won Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for the 2nd time in three years (First time in 2017).
- ❖ Australian Wicket-keeper Alyssa Healy is the T20I Cricketer of the Year.
- ❖ Thailand's Chanida Sutthiruang named as Emerging Cricketer of the Year.
- ❖ Meg Lanning named skipper of both ODI and T20I sides.

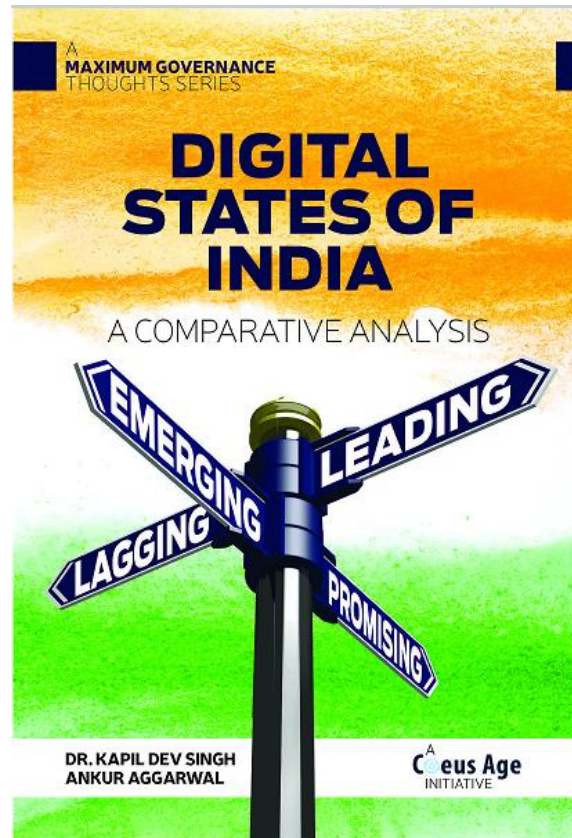


MISCELLANEOUS

Digital States of India report

- ❖ The second edition of "Digital States of India – A Comparative Analysis" released by research and consulting organization Coeus Age Consulting.
- ❖ As per the report's data, Chhattisgarh has emerged as the top state.

- ❖ Chhattisgarh was followed by Maharashtra, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th place respectively.
- ❖ It is to be noted that 5th ranked Madhya Pradesh was ranked 1st in 2017.
- ❖ The first report launched in 2017.



Braille Edition of Exam Warriors book

- ❖ Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot released Braille Edition of 'Exam Warriors'.
- ❖ This book was authored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ❖ The Braille Edition of book will be available in Hindi and English.

