



December - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Mahindra Group said Anand Mahindra will step down as Executive Chairman from April 1, 2020.
 - After that he will function as a Non-Executive Chairman. Pawan Goenka will be re-designated as Managing Director.s
- ❖ Chandrayaan-3 project director is Veerumuthuvel. The spacecraft is scheduled to be launched in November next year.
- ❖ The Ministry of Railways has granted in-principle approval for the 'Silver Line' project, a proposal of the Kerala government.
 - It involves laying of semi high-speed trains between the two corners (532 KM Long) of the state of Kerala.

NATIONAL

Scientific Articles

- ❖ India has emerged as the world's third largest publisher of science and engineering articles, according to a latest US report.
- ❖ China accounts for 20.67 per cent of all global publications in scientific articles.
- ❖ China is at the top position.
- ❖ China is followed by the US at 16.54 per cent.
- ❖ It was as per the statistics compiled by the US National Science Foundation (NSF).
- ❖ India now accounts for 5.31 per cent of the total world publications in science and engineering.

18th National Maritime Search and Rescue Board (NMSARB)

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) organized this meeting in New Delhi.
- ❖ The annual meeting was held to discuss policy issues, formulate guidelines & procedures as well as assess the efficacy of National Search and Rescue Plan (NSRP).
- ❖ Meeting included three new permanent members to meet- Ministry of Shipping, Department of Animal husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).



- ❖ Indian Coast Guard, under the Ministry of Defence, is India's nodal agency for Maritime Search and Rescue.

First Centre of Excellence for Next Generation Transportation Systems

- ❖ The National Rail Transport Institute, a deemed to be university under the Ministry of Railways, signed an MoU with the University of Birmingham of England in Rail Bhawan, New Delhi
- ❖ It aims to set up its first Centre of Excellence for Next Generation Transportation Systems.
- ❖ Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE) is the largest university-based centre for railway research and education in Europe.

150th Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

- ❖ The President of India Ram Nath Kovind, presided over the second meeting of the National Committee for Commemoration of the 150th Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Delhi.
- ❖ This Committee includes Vice-President, Prime Minister, Chief Ministers of all states, representatives from across the political spectrum, Gandhians, thinkers, and eminent persons from all walks of life.
- ❖ The Committee also has nine international members, including two former Secretaries-General of the United Nations - Mr Kofi Annan and Mr Ban Ki-Moon.

Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize

- ❖ Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa announced the setting up of a Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize in order to help promote Mahatma Gandhi's ideals.
- ❖ It will be given each year inspired by Gandhi's different thoughts and quotes.
- ❖ Portuguese PM is the only foreign Prime Minister to be a part of the committee.
- ❖ The first edition of this prize will be dedicated to animal welfare as Mahatma Gandhi said that the greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated.

ECONOMY

100 years of ASSOCHAM

- ❖ The PM addressed the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) in New Delhi.



- ❖ The event was organized to commemorate 100 years of ASSOCHAM under the theme of “New India Aspiring for 5 trillion USD”
- ❖ The ASSOCHAM is the apex trade association of India established in 1921.
- ❖ The organization is located in Kolkata, Bengaluru and Ahmedabad.

NEW ORDER

Ranking	Country	GDP '18 (\$ trillion)
1	US	20.5
2	China	13.6
3	Japan	5.0
4	Germany	4.0
5	UK	2.8
6	France	2.8
7	India	2.7
8	Italy	2.1
9	Brazil	1.9
10	Canada	1.7
11	Russia	1.7
12	S Korea	1.6
13	Australia	1.4
14	Spain	1.4

Source: World Bank

HDFC Bank

- ❖ HDFC Bank has become India's third listed entity to enter a list of companies with market cap of \$100 billion (Rs 7 lakh crore) and above.
- ❖ The other two companies that have achieved the \$100 billion m-cap milestone are Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), that has a market cap of \$140.74 billion (Rs 10 lakh crores) and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) with \$114.60 billion market cap (Rs 8 lakh crores).

Vegetables Export

- ❖ First trial shipment of fresh vegetables sourced from Varanasi region was flagged off from Mubmai to Dubai via sea route.



- ❖ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) aims to promote exports from India's agriculture produce rich regions.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Characterising Exoplanets Satellite (CHEOPS)

- ❖ It is intended to look for habitable exoplanets.
- ❖ It is the first mission dedicated to searching for exoplanetary transits.
- ❖ It was successfully launched by a Soyuz rocket.
- ❖ It blasted-off from the Russian Soyuz Guiana Space Center in French Guiana.
- ❖ So far, scientists have discovered some 4,000 exoplanets orbiting nearby stars, including dozens of Earth-like exoplanets -- mostly using data collected by NASA's Kepler satellite

Pinaka rocket

- ❖ An upgraded version of Pinaka MK III rocket was successfully test-fired from Chandipur in Odisha.
- ❖ It is modified as a missile by integrating with the navigation, control and guidance system to improve the end accuracy and enhance the range.
- ❖ Pinaka is an artillery missile system capable of striking into an enemy territory up to a range of 75 km with high precision.
- ❖ The navigation system of the missile is also aided by the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) also called as NAVIC.
- ❖ The missile system has been jointly developed by various Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratories.
 - Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE)
 - Research Centre Imarat (RCI)
 - Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)
 - Proof & Experimental Establishment (PXE)
 - High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL).

Vaccination on wheels Clinic

- ❖ Vaccination on wheels Clinic', claimed to be a first-of-its-kind service in India, has been launched in Pune.



- ❖ Jignesh Patel, founder of Jivika Healthcare with grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Grand Challenges Explorations), is the entrepreneur behind this collaborative venture.
- ❖ The basic objectives of the initiative are to provide low-cost vaccination service to the low-income group of the population.
- ❖ This clinic will go to schools, colleges and corporates to conduct vaccination camps at their doorsteps.
- ❖ It will offer only vaccination services.

STATES

11th Regional Quality Conclave (RQC)

- ❖ It was organized on 20 December 2019 at Rudrapur, district Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ It was organized by Quality Council of India (QCI) along with PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI).
- ❖ Through this Conclave the Quality Council of India (QCI) hopes to reach out to industries in the hilly regions of the country.
- ❖ Theme of Conclave 'Rudrapur RQC': 'Advance Manufacturing with Quality, Innovation & Technology Interventions.'

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

India Cyber Cop of the Year 2019

- ❖ Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officer B P Raju was awarded the 'India Cyber Cop of the Year 2019' during the Annual Information Security Summit held at Gurgaon, Haryana.
- ❖ He won the award for investigating and cracking a fraud case in an online entrance exam conducted by an engineering college in Rajasthan.
- ❖ The award was conferred by NASSCOM-DSCI (Data Security Council of India).

