



December - 30

TNPSC BITS

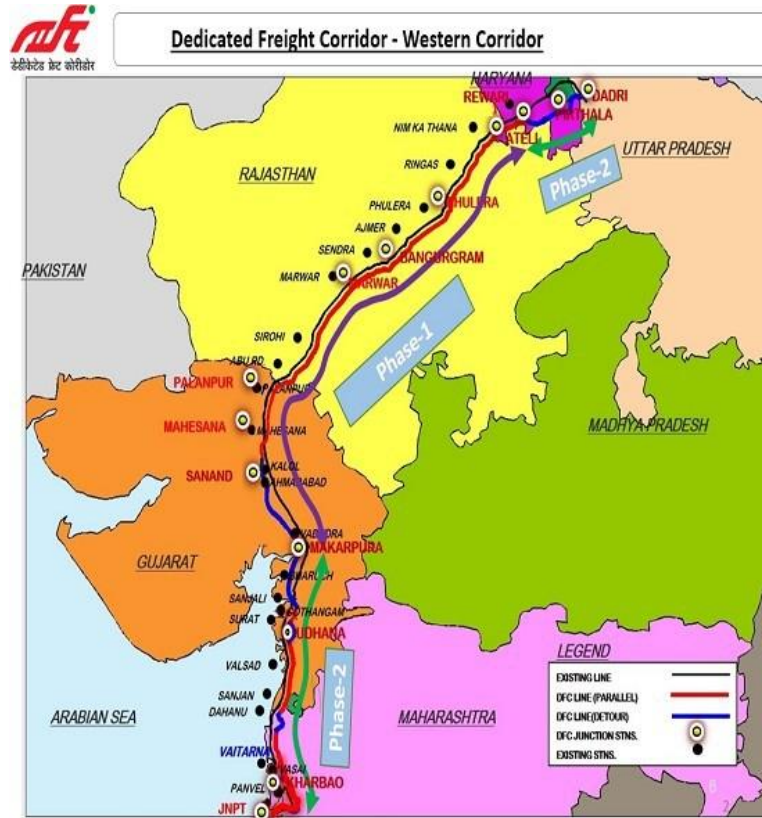
- ❖ Delhi government launched the scheme named 'Mukhyamantri Aawas Yojana' for the residents of Jhuggi Jhopri clusters.
 - It will provide a pucca house to every citizen in Delhi.
- ❖ Tropical Cyclone Sarai has lashed the Pacific island nation Fiji.

NATIONAL

Double Stack Train

- ❖ The trial run of the first freight train was conducted in the western dedicated freight corridor.
- ❖ The train was flagged off by Dedicated Freight Corporation India Limited (DFCIL).
- ❖ The train will be operated in the Rewari-Madar Section in Haryana and Rajasthan states.
- ❖ DFCIL is currently running freight trains at speed of 75 kilometre per hour.
- ❖ The double stack train is currently run only in countries such as China, Brazil, Australia, Canada, USA, Russia, South Africa, Sweden and Norway.
- ❖ The 1,504-km western freight corridor begins at Dadri in Uttar Pradesh and stretches till the country's largest container port — Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, near Mumbai Passing through Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- ❖ It is funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency.





Aadhaar registration work

- ❖ CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) under Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) restarted Aadhaar registration work.
- ❖ Aadhaar is now being used as primary identity document.
- ❖ The Common Service Centres (CSC) SPV has signed an agreement with Aadhaar custodian, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), to roll out Aadhaar enrollment, make corrections and changes in profile of unique ID holders within its premises.

First transit-oriented development (TOD)

- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for country's first Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) project in New Delhi.
- ❖ Under the TOD project a state-of-the-art infrastructure zone, including national capital's tallest tower, will be built in east Delhi.
- ❖ It is being implemented by Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MHUA).



INTERNATIONAL

19th Joint commission meeting 2019

- ❖ External Affairs Minister Jaishankar co-chaired the 19th Joint Commission Meeting 2019 in Tehran, Iran.
- ❖ Both sides also agreed to celebrate their 70th anniversary of bilateral treaty of friendship in 2020.

UN's New international treaty on cyber crime

- ❖ The United Nations approved a new resolution in order to draft an international treaty to combat cybercrime.
- ❖ The resolution was drafted by Russia and approved by 193 member countries.
- ❖ The Budapest Convention was the first ever treaty on cyber-crime that addressed internet and computer crimes.
- ❖ It was drawn by Council of Europe.
- ❖ At present, it is the only treaty of cyber-crime under the United Nations.
- ❖ Countries like India and Brazil have not adopted the convention till now.

UN budget hike

- ❖ The United Nations has adopted 3.07 billion USD budget on December 27, 2019.
- ❖ The organization for the first time included investigation of war crimes in Myanmar and Syria in its fund allocation.
- ❖ The budget proposal for the year 2020 is slightly greater than that of 2019.
- ❖ In 2019, UN budget was 2.9 billion USD.
- ❖ It is to be noted that United Nations faced severe Financial crisis in October 2019.

ECONOMY

Financial Stability Report

- ❖ The RBI released Financial Stability Report.
- ❖ The report is a biennial report.
- ❖ The report said that the non-performing asset ratio of banks is increasing.
- ❖ It is expected to increase to 9.9% by September 2020 from 9.3% in September 2019.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Geranium saplings

- ❖ The CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) has developed a new low-cost technology to produce Geranium saplings.
- ❖ The geranium cultivation is being done in aerated glass house currently.
- ❖ With the help of the new technology, geranium can be cultivated at farms just like every other crop.
- ❖ Geranium acts as an anti-inflammatory and anti-septic agent.
- ❖ The Geranium plant is originally from South Africa and is predominantly used in manufacturing essential oils.
- ❖ November is the best suitable sowing season of Geranium.
- ❖ In India, the plant is cultivated in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and North Easter Regions.
- ❖ It has several medicinal values.
- ❖ The development has been made under Aroma Mission which was launched to boost cultivation of aromatic crops and medicinal plant.
- ❖ It includes rosemary, lavender and lemon grass.
- ❖ Under the mission the crops are to be promoted in unproductive and waste lands.
- ❖ It also includes lands that are affected by drought, salinity, water scarcity and floods.



ENVIRONMENT

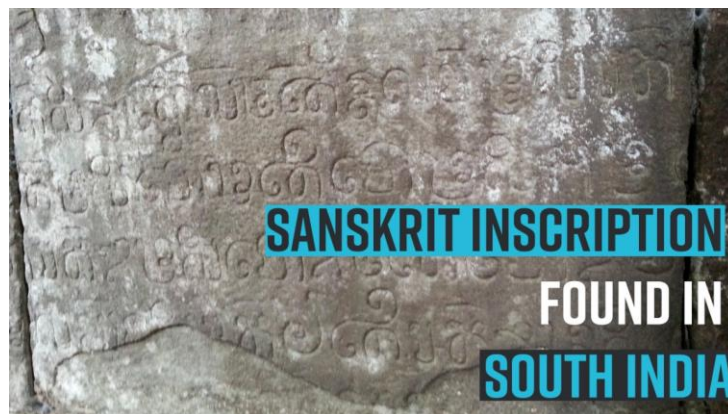
SnowEx Airborne Campaign

- ❖ NASA has launched a seasonal campaign, part of a five-year programme called SnowEx, initiated in 2016-17.
- ❖ NASA's overall target is optimal strategies for mapping global Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) with remote sensing and models.
- ❖ SnowEx 2020 will first test the instruments near Grand Mesa, Colorado, which includes both flat snow and forest.

STATES

South India's earliest Sanskrit Inscription

- ❖ The Epigraphy Branch of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has discovered the earliest Sanskrit inscription to have been discovered in South India as on date.
- ❖ The discovery was made in Chebrolu village in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ It is in Sanskrit and in Brahmi characters and was issued by Satavahana king Vijaya in 207 A.D.
- ❖ Until now the Nagarjunakonda inscription of Ikshavaku king Ehavala Chantamula issued in his 11th reignal year (4th century A.D.) was considered the earliest Sanskrit inscription in South India.
- ❖ This significant finding is also the earliest epigraphic evidence for 'Saptamatrika' cult so far.
- ❖ Saptamatrikas are a group of seven female deities worshipped in Hinduism as personifying the energy of their respective consorts.





New e-initiatives - Haryana

- ❖ CM of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar launched 5 new e-initiatives on the occasion of national Good Governance Day.
- ❖ The year 2020 will be observed as “Susashan Sankalp Varsh”. Reforms in governance will be invited from people in the state.
- ❖ The pilot project of ‘Sirsi village’ has been completed for the rural and abadi deh areas and field verification of Sirsi work has been done thus the village became the first village in the state to become ‘Lal Dora free’.
- ❖ Additionally, 42 services added on Saral portal, with these additional services, the total services in the portal reached 527.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Harivarasanam Award

- ❖ The Musician Ilaiyaraaja has been selected for the prestigious Harivarasanam Award for 2020.
- ❖ It instituted by the Kerala state government.
- ❖ Each year, Harivarasanam Award is announced ahead of Makaravilakku festival in Sabarimala.

About

- ❖ The award was jointly being by the Kerala state government and Travancore Devaswom Board, and is being awarded since 2012.
- ❖ The first recipient of the award was KJ Yesudas in 2012 and Singer P Susheela was given the award last year.
- ❖ The award is given to those persons who have contributed to propagate the spirit of secularism and universal brotherhood through music.

MISCELLANEOUS

Diamond in My Palm - Book

- ❖ Sanjay Dharwadker authored the book titled “Diamond in My Palm”.
- ❖ This book describes, how the world’s 12 greatest diamonds originated from Golconda and Kollur mines in Andhra Pradesh & later took away by Mughals, Persians, Brits, French, Turks and Russians after centuries and now ensconced in their national treasures.
- ❖ The important diamonds listed in the book were:



- Koh-i-Noor (In London),
- Pink Darya-i-Noor (now in Tehran),
- The pale, flat-shaped Shah Diamond and the half egg eye shaped, blue-green Orlov Diamond (now in Kremlin); and
- The fabled Blue Diamond (now the Hope Diamond in the Smithsonian).

