

January - 05

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The former Eastern Railway General Manager Suneet Sharma was appointed as the new Railway Board Chairman and CEO.
- ❖ Soma Mondal has taken over as the new chairperson of Steel Authority of India Limited, SAIL.
 - She is the first woman chairperson of the SAIL.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh Government is to launch Kisan Kalyan mission.
 - It aims to double the farmer income covering all the Assembly constituencies of the state of Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The cabinet of Punjab recently approved the Punjab state data policy.
 - It becomes the first state in India to formulate a comprehensive data policy.
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of tenure of K.Sivan for a period of one year up to January 14, 2022.
 - He is the current Secretary (Space) and ex-officio chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation.
- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) observed the 63rd Foundation Day of its establishment on January 01, 2021.
 - It was established in 1958.
- ❖ Goa's 14-year-old Leon Mendonca has become India's 67th chess Grandmaster (GM) by winning at the Vergani Cup held in Italy.
 - Leon is the second Indian to become GM this year after G. Akash of Tamilnadu.
- ❖ The home minister of India released the National Police K-9 Journal in New Delhi.
 - The publication is first of its kind in the country on the subject of police service K9s, police dogs, etc.
- ❖ Kazakhstan recently abolished the death penalty.

NATIONAL

Light House Projects

- ❖ Light House Projects (LHPs) showcase the new-age best of alternate global technologies, materials and processes in the construction sector at a large scale for the first time in India.
- ❖ They are being constructed under the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India).
- ❖ Launched in 2019, the challenge is undertaken under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY-U).
- ❖ GHTC was launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
- ❖ It will be undertaken at Rajkot in Gujarat, Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, Indore in Madhya Pradesh, Ranchi in Jharkhand, Chennai in Tamil Nadu and Agartala in Tripura.



Home solution

The Global Housing Technology Challenge is aimed at introducing best technologies to construct houses quickly and at a lower cost

- 6 winners will design and build projects of 1,000 housing units each
- The State and the Centre each will provide assistance of ₹1.5 lakh
- The Centre will give an additional technology grant of ₹2.5 lakh for each house
- Incubation facilities will be provided to develop building technologies with support from four IITs
- The approved technologies will be displayed by Central Public Works Department along with the rates

Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice 2020 – 16th Edition

- ❖ It has been given since 2004 annually or biannually.
- ❖ It is an initiative of Harmony Foundation.
- ❖ Harmony Foundation is an international NGO that works in the realm of Social Justice.
- ❖ It was created by Dr. Abraham Mathai in 2005 at Mumbai.
- ❖ This award is the only award endorsed by Sister Prema, the Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity.
- ❖ It was the organization started by Mother Teresa at Calcutta in 1950.

- ❖ The theme for this year's awards was, 'Celebrating Compassion in Times of Covid '.
- ❖ Awardees this year included
 - Dr Anthony Fauci (USA)
 - Father Fabio Stevenazzi (Milan, Italy)
 - Cristian Fracassi and Alessandro Romaioli (Italy)
 - Dr Pradeep Kumar (Chennai)
 - IPS Sanjay Pandey (Maharashtra)
 - Vikas Khanna (Manhattan, USA)
 - KK Shailaja (Minister of Health, Kerala).

INTERNATIONAL

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)

- ❖ It has become an associate member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO).
- ❖ The first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India has been set up at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT).

Nuclear exchange

- ❖ Pakistan and India conducted the annual practice of exchanging the list of their nuclear installations.
- ❖ This was signed on December 31, 1988.
- ❖ The agreement contains the provision that both countries inform each other of their nuclear installations and facilities on January 1 every year.
- ❖ This has been done consecutively since January 1, 1992.



ECONOMY

The BFSI Movers and Shakers 2020

- ❖ It was report released by Wizikey Firm.
- ❖ According to the report, HDFC, ICICI, and SBI were the top three banks of 2020.
- ❖ Google Pay and PhonePe are the top UPI players in the country.
- ❖ Google Pay has emerged as the number one, followed by Phone Pe.
- ❖ YONO emerged as the number one followed by Niyo and Kotak 811 in the Neo Banks category.

Export of Akash

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the export of Akash Missile System aiming to achieve the target of USD 5 billion of defence export.
- ❖ The Akash missile is a short-range surface-to-air indigenous missile with a range of 25 km.
- ❖ It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation under the Integrated Guided Missile Development programme (1984).
- ❖ It was inducted in 2014 in the Air Force and in 2015 in the Indian Army.

INDIA'S 'AKASH' TO COUNTER DRAGON FIRE

Mission » To track & destroy hostile aircraft, helicopters, drones & sub-sonic cruise missiles

Surface-to-Air missile (SAM) system was one of the five core missile systems of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme launched by India in 1983. After long delays due to technical glitches, Akash now finally being deployed by IAF & army

IAF » Inducting eight squadrons, each with 2 'flights' of 4 launchers
Cost | ₹6,200 Cr

Army » Inducting 2 Akash regiments, with six firing batteries & hundreds of missiles each
Cost | ₹14,180 Cr

MISSILE CHARACTERISTICS

- 5.6 metre in length;
integrated two-stage Ramjet rocket propulsion technology; powered by an air-breathing engine; can carry warhead of 60kg
- 25-km interception range
Low reaction, all-weather capability
- 96% indigenous
Can handle multiple aerial threats from several directions simultaneously
- 88% kill probability within a specified kill zone



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Digital Ocean

- ❖ It is the first of its kind digital platform for Ocean Data Management.
- ❖ It was developed by Indian National Centre for Oceanic Information Services (INCOIS)
- ❖ The INCOIS is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Ruthenium 106 Plaque

- ❖ Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) Mumbai has developed the first indigenous Ruthenium 106 Plaque.
- ❖ It will be developed for the treatment of the Eye Cancer therapy.



SAHAYAK-NG

- ❖ It is the first indigenously developed air droppable container, with a parachute system.
- ❖ After the safe separation from the aircraft, the parachute controls the descent of Sahayak-NG for safe touchdown on water.
- ❖ It was designed by Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) and Avantel, a private company.

