

January - 04

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The ISRO Chairman Sivan announced that four astronauts have been selected for the country's first manned mission to space, called Gaganyaan.
 - ISRO aims to launch its maiden Human Space Mission "Gaganyaan" before the 75th anniversary of India's independence in 2022.

TAMILNADU

First Transgender victory in Local Body

- ❖ For the first time in the history of the local body polls in Tamil Nadu, a transwoman representing the opposition DMK party won the Union councillor post.
- ❖ 30-year-old Riya won in the Nammakal district's Tiruchengode town.

NATIONAL

Rabi Crop Sowing increase

- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture announced that the sowing area of rabi crops have increased by 36 lakh hectares.
- ❖ The total area under Rabi crops was 536 hectares last year and this has increased to 571 hectares.
- ❖ This is mainly due to improvement in soil moisture in Rabi growing states.
- ❖ The major Rabi crops in India are wheat, barley, sesame, peas, mustard.
- ❖ They are sown in winter and are harvested in summer.

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana

- ❖ Out of the total 790, only 252 Members of Parliament (MPs) have adopted gram panchayats under phase-4 of Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY).
- ❖ This scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- ❖ The scheme was launched by the Prime Minister of India on 2014 on the birth anniversary of Jai Prakash Narayan.

[About scheme](#)

- ❖ It is a village development project under which each Members of Parliament (MPs) are responsible for developing the socio-economic and physical infrastructure of three villages each by 2019, and a total of eight villages each by 2024.
- ❖ The first Adarsh Gram (Model Village) was to be developed by 2016, and two more by 2019.
- ❖ From 2019 to 2024, five more Adarsh Grams must be developed by each MP, one each year.

Asiatic Lion Census

- ❖ The Asiatic Lion Census is scheduled to take place in May 2020.
- ❖ The Gujarat forest department conducts lion census in Asiatic Lion Landscape, which includes Gir National Park and Sanctuary.
- ❖ The census will take place in every five years by Wildlife Institute of India.
- ❖ The Institute will use 10,000 cameras to conduct the census.



About Asiatic Lion

- ❖ It is listed as 'Endangered' under the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ It is listed in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ The only surviving free-ranging population of the Asiatic lion exists in the Gir forest, Gujarat.
- ❖ According to the 2015 Lion Census, there are 523 Asiatic Lions.
- ❖ The African Lion is listed as Vulnerable under the IUCN Red List.

Asiatic Lion Conservation Project



- ❖ This 3-year project (2018/2021) was Launched by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, it aims to protect and conserve the Asiatic Lion.

Rs 12,000 crore under PM Kisan

- ❖ The centre government will release third instalment of PM KISAN of Rs. 2000 for December 2019-March 2020.

About PM KISAN Scheme:

- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from Government of India.
- ❖ It was announced in February 2019.
- ❖ Under the Scheme, income support of Rs.6000/- per year is provided to all farmer families across the country in three equal instalments of Rs.2000/- every four months.
- ❖ The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the State/UT Governments.
- ❖ The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

About Krishi Karman Awards

- ❖ Krishi Karman Awards are given to best performing States in food grain production.
- ❖ The award was constituted in 2010-11 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

INTERNATIONAL

Lists of Civilian prisoners and fishermen

- ❖ On January 1, 2020, India and Pakistan exchanged list of prisoners and fishermen.
- ❖ The countries exchange the information every year on 1st January and 1st July.
- ❖ They also exchanged nuclear installations alongside on the same day.
- ❖ In 2008, India and Pakistan signed an agreement to allow consular access to prisoners in each country.



ECONOMY

MANI application for visually challenged

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India launched the MANI application for visually challenged persons.
- ❖ MANI's expansion is Mobile Aided Note Identifier.
- ❖ It helps to identify new currency notes that were launched after demonetization.
- ❖ However, the application does not detect genuine or counterfeit notes.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FAME II

- ❖ The Department of Heavy Industries operating under Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises has sanctioned 2636 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations under FAME India scheme Phase II.
- ❖ FAME India is Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) and Electric Vehicles.
- ❖ The objective of the scheme is to increase the use of electric and hybrid vehicles by offering incentives.
- ❖ India has planned to use three charging technologies.
- ❖ It includes CHAdeMO, Indian Bharat Standard and Combined Charging System (CCS).
- ❖ CHAdeMO is a quick charging method that delivers up to 62.5 KW by 500 volt and 125 ampere DC (Direct Current).
- ❖ The CCS involves both DC and AC charging.

ENVIRONMENT

Senna Spectabilis

- ❖ The Kerala Government is planning to arrest the rampant growth of Senna spectabilis, in the forest areas of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR), including the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❖ It is a deciduous tree native to tropical areas of America.
- ❖ It grows up to 15 to 20 metres in a short period of time and distributes thousands of seeds after flowering.
- ❖ It is an invasive species.

- ❖ It is categorised as 'Least Concern' under IUCN Red List.



STATES

Nagaland under AFSPA

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has declared entire State of Nagaland a 'disturbed area' for a period of 6 more months under Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) with effect from December 30, 2019.

About AFSPA

- ❖ Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) came into force in 1958.
- ❖ This Act came into force in the context of increasing violence in the North-eastern States of India.
- ❖ AFSPA empowers security forces to maintain public order in disturbed areas.

Chhattisgarh - financial scheme for labourers

- ❖ Chhattisgarh government has launched 'Mukhyamantri Vishwakarma Nirman Shramik Mrityu evam Divyang Sahayta Yojana'.
- ❖ It seeks to provide fixed compensation for registered construction and unorganised labourers in the event of death on work or disability.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Sangita Kalanidhi award

- ❖ S.Sowmya (Carnatic Singer) has been conferred with Sangita Kalanidhi Award.
- ❖ Sangita Kalanidhi Award was instituted by the Music Academy, Chennai.
- ❖ It is the title awarded yearly to a Carnatic Musician.



MISCELLANEOUS

2020 - “Year of Nurse and Midwife”

- ❖ World Health Organization designated the year 2020 as the “Year of Nurse and Midwife” to achieve Universal Health Coverage.
- ❖ In order to honor the 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, this year is celebrated.
- ❖ The organization is leading the development of “World Nursing Report” that is to be launched in 2020.

Florence Nightingale

- ❖ Florence Nightingale was an English Social reformer born in 1820.
- ❖ She was called “The Lady with the Lamp” for making rounds on wounded soldiers during war.
- ❖ Also, every year, the International Nurse Day is being celebrated by the International Council of Nurses on May 12 in her honour.



2020
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