

January - 30

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Union Minister Piyush Goyal announced that Indian Railways will run 100% on electricity by 2024.
 - Indian Railways has also planned to make the network zero-emission network by 2030.

NATIONAL

India's first underwater Metro – Kolkata

- ❖ The first underwater Metro is being constructed in Hooghly river.
- ❖ The project is awaiting clearance of 2.8 million USD from the Indian Railways.
- ❖ It is expected that the metro project will be completed by March 2022.
- ❖ The Hooghly Metro is one of the oldest Metro in the country.
- ❖ It was started in 1984.
- ❖ The new under water tunnel will carry 20% of city's population and will cross the river in less than a minute.

NISHTHA programme

- ❖ NISHTHA is the world's largest teachers' training programme of its kind in the world.
- ❖ NISHTHA – National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement.
- ❖ It has been launched to improve Learning Outcomes at the Elementary level.
- ❖ The basic objective of this massive training programme is to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students.
- ❖ The initiative is first of its kind wherein standardized training modules are developed at national level for all States and UTs.

Operation Vanilla

- ❖ Indian navy will perform Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations in Madagascar under 'Operation Vanilla'.

- ❖ The Operation has been launched to assist the population of Madagascar that were affected by Cyclone Diane.
- ❖ The Indian Navy ship Airavat has been deployed in the relief mission.



Composite Regional Centre launched in Port Blair

- ❖ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the Composite Regional Centre (CRC) in Port Blair.
- ❖ The Composite Regional Centres in India are located in Kozhikode, Bhopal, Lucknow, Patna, Guwahati, Srinagar, Ahmedabad, Mandi and Suraghi (Chhattisgarh).
- ❖ The CRCs are inaugurated to create infrastructure and resources for persons with disabilities such as persons with low-vision, mental retardation, Autism Spectrum Disorder etc.
- ❖ These centres focus at locals rather than urban areas.
- ❖ The centres aim at training of rehabilitation professionals and capacity building at centre, district and state levels.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Poly Crack Technology

- ❖ The East Coast Railways commissioned the first waste-to-energy plant of Railways sector of India.
- ❖ It is the fourth such plant in the country.
- ❖ The plant has been set up at a cost of Rs 1.79 crores with Poly crack technology.
- ❖ In Poly crack Technology, waste is processed and reformed in 24 hours.
- ❖ The technology involves de-polymerization, cracking, reforming, scrubbing, particle filtration and rapid quenching.
- ❖ The major benefit of the method is that it does not require pre-segregation.

Bhuvan Panchayat 3.0.

- ❖ ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) launched Bhuvan Panchayat version 3.0.
- ❖ Under the project, the ISRO will collaborate with Gram panchayat members to understand their data requirements.
- ❖ The portal will function with the help of satellite technology of ISRO.
- ❖ The project will run for two years.
- ❖ The portal aims at helping village development planning process under the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

STATES

Andhra Pradesh to Scrap Legislative Council

- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh (AP) assembly has passed a resolution to abolish the state's Legislative Council.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government has to send the resolution to the Governor for his approval and then to the Parliament for ratification.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh's Legislative Council, set up in 1958, was abolished in 1985, then reconstituted in 2007.
- ❖ According to article 169, The Parliament can abolish a Legislative Council (where it already exists) or create it (where it does not exist) by a simple majority, if the legislative assembly of the concerned state, by a special majority.
- ❖ Besides Andhra Pradesh, the other states having Legislative Councils are Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Karnataka.



Shiv Bhojan Scheme

- ❖ Maharashtra government launched 'Shiv Bhojan' scheme.
- ❖ The scheme aims to provide a meal to the poor for just 10 rupees, on the occasion of the 71st Republic Day.
- ❖ Under the pilot scheme, at least one 'Shiv Bhojan' canteen has been started at district headquarters.
- ❖ The scheme aims at providing affordable, quality food to all.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Padma Awardees 2020

- ❖ The government of India has announced the names of Padma Award winners on January 26, 2020.
- ❖ The Padma Awards are the highest civilian awards in India.
- ❖ The personalities of various fields like arts, science and engineering, social work, sports, civil service, literature and education etc are awarded.
- ❖ Former Union Minister Manohar Parrikar (Posthumous), Olympian badminton player PV Sindhu have been named for the Padma Bhushan award on the eve of Republic Day.
- ❖ These awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day and the President of India confers these awards in March/April at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ❖ The Padma Awards are given in three categories:
 - "Padma Vibhushan" exceptional and distinguished service;
 - "Padma Bhushan" distinguished service of outstanding quality and
 - "Padma Shri" distinguished service in any field.

Name	Field	State/Country	Award
George Fernandes (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Bihar	Padma Vibhushan
Arun Jaitley (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Delhi	Padma Vibhushan
Sir Anerood Jugnauth GCSK	Public Affairs	Mauritius	Padma Vibhushan



M. C. Mary Kom	Sports	Manipur	Padma Vibhushan
Chhannulal Mishra	Art	Uttar Pradesh	Padma Vibhushan
Sushma Swaraj (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Delhi	Padma Vibhushan
Vishvesha teertha Swamiji Pejavara Adhokhaja Matha Udupi (Posthumous)	Others - Spiritualism	Karnataka	Padma Vibhushan

Name	Field	State	Award
Manoj Das	Literature and Education	Puducherry	Padma Bhushan
Ms. Krishnammal Jagannathan	Social Work	Tamil Nadu	Padma Bhushan
Venu Srinivasan	Trade and Industry	Tamil Nadu	Padma Bhushan
Ms. Lalitha & Ms. Saroja Chidambaram (Duo)*	Art	Tamil Nadu	Padma Shri
Manohar Devadoss	Art	Tamil Nadu	Padma Shri
S. Ramakrishnan	Social Work	Tamil Nadu	Padma Shri
Kalee Shabi Mahaboob & Shri Sheik Mahaboob Subani (Duo)*	Art	Tamil Nadu	Padma Shri
Pradeep Thalappil	Science and Engineering	Tamil Nadu	Padma Shri
V. K. Munusamy Krishnapakthar	Art	Puducherry	Padma Shri

IMPORTANT DAYS

Data Privacy day - January 28

- ❖ This day marks the EU passing Data Protection Convention in 2006, called Convention 108.
- ❖ This day is observed all across the globe to disseminate privacy practices, risked or sensitive individuals and data privacy principles.

Lala Lajpat Rai Birth Anniversary - January 28

- ❖ India celebrated the legend Lala Lajpat Rai's 155th birth anniversary.
- ❖ His patriotism earned him titles such as "Punjab Kesari" and "Lion of Punjab".
- ❖ He was born on 28 January, 1865 in Punjab.
- ❖ He was one of the triumvirates of the Lal Bal Pal.
 - It includes Lala Lajpat Rai of Punjab, Bal Gangadhar Tilak of Maharashtra and Bipin Chandra Pal of Bengal.
- ❖ He was an active participant of Hindu Reform Movements, Indian Independence Movements, Indian Nationalist Movements.
- ❖ Young men Bhagat Singh and Chandrasekhar Azad were greatly influenced by Rai.
- ❖ He was also a major participant of the protests against Simon commission, 1927.
- ❖ He founded several institutions and organizations such as Hisar Bar Council, Hisar Arya Samaj, Hisar Congress, National DAV Managing Committee.

