

December - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Leading tyre maker Apollo Tyres has roped in the cricketer icon Sachin Tendulkar as its brand ambassador for the period of 5 years. This is for the first time that the company has associated itself with a celebrity as the face of its brand.
 - Apart from Apollo Tyres, Tendulkar is also the brand Ambassador for **BMW** in India.
- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that it has renamed the ICC World T20 as the ICC T20 World Cup. The changes will be applicable to both men's and women's cricket.
- ❖ GRSE launched two fast patrol vessels (FPV) ICGS Amrit Kaur and ICGS Kamla Devi, (named after freedom fighters) in the river Hooghly in Kolkata.

INTERNATIONAL

12th World Congress on Mountain Medicine

- ❖ The 12th biennial World Congress on Mountain Medicine was held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ❖ The theme of the 4-day congress was "Mountain Medicine in the Heart of the Himalayas".
- ❖ The flagship event of the International Society for Mountain Medicine (ISMM) was held for the **first time in Nepal** and hosted by the Mountain Medicine Society of Nepal (MMSN).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Smartphone-based system to detect adulteration in milk

- ❖ Researchers from Indian IIT, Hyderabad, has developed a smartphone-based system to detect adulteration in milk.
- ❖ They have developed detector system which can measure level of acidity in milk using indicator paper.

- ❖ They have also developed algorithms that can be incorporated in smartphone to accurately detect change in acidity.
- ❖ The sensor-chip based method measures pH, which is indicator of the acidity and colour of paper indicates different pH levels.
- ❖ In this adulteration detection system, researchers have used process called 'electrospinning'.

Google's NBU Neighbourly app

- ❖ Google's Next Billion Users (NBU) team announced the national roll-out of its Neighbourly app in Delhi and Bangalore.
- ❖ It will help people by sourcing local information from their neighbours about their neighbourhood in an easier way.
- ❖ The full-fledged app offers services in 8 vernacular languages and is a targeted app with a geographic radius between 1 to 5 km.

India's first chatbot for patients – ANYA

- ❖ The Pharma company Lupin launched India's First chatbot named 'ANYA' to provide medically verified information for health-related queries.
- ❖ It was launched at the 46th Annual Meeting of the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes, in Bengaluru.
- ❖ ANYA is chatbot trained to help patients with health-related concerns as part of their disease-management.
- ❖ ANYA in Sanskrit means inexhaustible or limitless.

STATES

Nari Sashaktikaran Sankalp Abhiyan

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister has launched a month-long Nari Sashaktikaran Sankalp Abhiyan or Women Empowerment campaign in Lucknow.
- ❖ It is aimed to empower women in the state through various programmes including education, self-employment, health, cleanliness, nutrition.

Jangalmahal festival

- ❖ West Bengal celebrated the annual three-day long 'Jangalmahal' festival.
- ❖ It has been initiated and organized by the 'Jangal Mahal Udyog'.
- ❖ The festival aims to revive and popularise the culture and heritage of Jangal Mahal.

Bali Yatra

- ❖ The historic Bali Yatra festival was inaugurated in Cuttack, Odisha on the occasion of Kartik Purnima by State Finance Minister Shashi Bhusan Behera.
- ❖ The 10 days long festival is the largest trade fair in Orissa and is likely to witness a footfall of millions of people.
- ❖ It is held on the banks of Mahanadi river in Cuttack, to mark the day when ancient Sadhabas (ancient mariners) would set sail to distant lands of Bali, for trade and cultural expansion.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

French Legion of Honor

- ❖ The French Government has awarded French Legion of Honor to 100-year-old Retired Colonel William Pollard during a ceremony at the Kentucky Capitol.
- ❖ William Pollard fought in World War II and rescued 14 soldiers from a concrete caisson that was hit by enemy fire.
- ❖ The Legion of Honour was created in 1802 by first emperor of France Napoleon Bonaparte.
- ❖ It is the highest civilian award given by the French government to person for his outstanding service to France, regardless of the nationality.

International Green Apple Award

- ❖ Manipal Academy of Higher Education won silver in the International Green Apple Award for Environmental best practice 2018.
- ❖ Green Manipal, the award-winning project of MAHE was selected among the 800 global nominations.

- ❖ MAHE now will have 100 trees planted in their name as part of the UN Billion Trees Initiative and can participate in the Green World Awards 2019.

Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle

- ❖ The Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle, was awarded to Professor Shyama Prasad Ganguly in the India International Center (IIC).
- ❖ It is for the first time, Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest civilian honour given to a foreigner by Mexico.
- ❖ He was the first Indian Academician to receive such honour.
- ❖ The award was in recognition of his “outstanding work in the study and dissemination of the Spanish language and Mexican culture”.

International James Dyson award 2018

- ❖ The prestigious International James Dyson award 2018 was won by Nicolas Orellana of Chile and Yaseen Noorani from Kenya.
- ❖ It has been awarded for their innovative design ‘Urban wind turbine’ called O-Wind Turbine.
- ❖ It is a sphere-shaped object with vents that spins and converts the power of the wind into electricity and was inspired from NASA’s Mars Tumbleweed Rover.

3rd Sayaji Ratna Award

- ❖ Film star Amitabh Bachchan was awarded the third Sayaji Ratna Award in Laxmi Vilas Palace, Vadodara
- ❖ It was awarded for his social contribution to pay off the loans of several farmers from Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- ❖ The first 2 recipients of the award were Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy and industrialist Ratan Tata.
- ❖ It was established in the memory of erstwhile Baroda ruler Sayajirao Gaekwad III in 2013 by the Baroda Management Association to mark the 150th birth anniversary of the ruler.

SPORTS

LI NING BWF World Junior Championship 2018

- ❖ LI NING BWF World Junior Championship was recently held at Markham, Canada.
- ❖ Lakshya Sen lost to Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the semi-final of the men's single junior championship and settled for bronze medal.
- ❖ Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn won the Men's single title by defeating Japanese player Kodai Naraoka in the Finals.
- ❖ It is India's only medal in this year's championship.
- ❖ Saina Nehwal is the only Indian player who had won Gold at BWF World Junior Championship which held in the year 2008.
- ❖ DI Zijian and Wang Chang won Men's double title.
