

**December – 11**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The World Gold Council announced the appointment of David Tait as its next Chief Executive Officer.
  - He succeeds Aram Shishmanian, who served as CEO over the last 10 years.
- ❖ Indian Navy Commander (Pilot) Vijay Varma and Captain (Pilot) P Rajkumar were honoured at the 7th 'Asian of The Year' awards for their selfless rescue service during Kerala Floods.
  - The winners were announced at the Straits Times Global Outlook Forum 2019 held in Singapore.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Mahakavi Subramania Bharathi festival**

- ❖ Subramania Bharathi's 136th birth anniversary is celebrated on 11th December 2018.
- ❖ Governor Banwarilal Purohit presented 'Bharathi Award' to Veteran film director K.Viswanath.
- ❖ He was awarded at the inauguration of the Mahakavi Subramania Bharathi festival and Desh Bakthi Festival at a function held at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai.
- ❖ The festival was organised by the Department of Tamil Development and Vanavil Cultural Centre.



### **Mrs India Universe Globe 2018**



- ❖ Coimbatore-based designer and stylist Shamyuktha Prem was crowned the 'Mrs India Universe Globe 2018'.

- ❖ She was crowned in the recently concluded 7-day long beauty pageant Mrs India Universe at Pune in Maharashtra.
- ❖ Shamyuktha was the only participant representing Tamil Nadu this year.

## **NATIONAL**

### **India Indonesia Business forum**

- ❖ The first ever India Indonesia Business forum (IIBF) was held at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ It aims to facilitate the commercial and people-to-people linkages between Andaman and Nicobar Islands of India with Aceh and North Sumatera Province of Indonesia.

### **Madad 2018**

- ❖ A major large-scale tri-service exercise, Madad 2018, was conducted at sea off Goa and Karwar.
- ❖ The biennial exercise was coordinated by the Indian Navy's Western Naval Command in consultation with the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQIDS).
- ❖ The drill is an effort to sharpen the joint war-fighting capabilities and enhance the operational synergy.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **1st Latin American nation to join BRI**

- ❖ Panama became the first Latin American Country to join China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- ❖ The move came after Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Panama to sign a range of cooperation agreements.
- ❖ China established diplomatic relations with Panama only last year.

## World's fastest-growing cities

- ❖ According to Oxford Economics report, the top 10 fastest growing cities in the world from 2019 to 2035 are in India.
- ❖ Gujarat's Surat tops the list followed by Uttar Pradesh's Agra and Bengaluru (Karnataka).
- ❖ By 2035, the GDP of Asian countries will be 17 % higher than all North American and European urban centres combined.
- ❖ Mumbai was termed as the world's 12th richest city.
- ❖ India is the 6th largest wealth market in the world (in terms of total wealth held) after USA, China, Japan, Germany and the UK.
- ❖ The fastest-growing African city is the Tanzanian port of Dar es Salaam, while the top spot in Europe is held by the Armenian capital of Yerevan.
- ❖ San Jose, a proxy for Silicon Valley, will be the best performer in the North America.

| <b>TOP 10 FASTEST GROWING CITIES IN THE WORLD, 2019-35</b> |                      |                 |           |           |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Rank   | Growth (y/y 2019-35) | City            | GDP 2018* | GDP 2035* |
| 1  | 9.2                  | Surat           | 28.5      | 126.8     |
| 2  | 8.6                  | Agra            | 3.9       | 15.6      |
| 3  | 8.5                  | Bengaluru       | 70.8      | 283.3     |
| 4  | 8.2                  | Hyderabad       | 50.6      | 201.4     |
| 5  | 8.4                  | Nagpur          | 12.3      | 48.6      |
| 6  | 8.3                  | Tiruppur        | 4.3       | 17        |
| 7  | 8.3                  | Rajkot          | 6.8       | 26.7      |
| 8  | 8.3                  | Tiruchirappalli | 4.9       | 19        |
| 9  | 8.2                  | Chennai         | 36        | 136.8     |
| 10   | 8.2                  | Vijayawada      | 5.6       | 21.3      |

\*GDP: \$tn, constant 2018 prices Source: Oxford Economics

## Suu Kyi stripped of freedom of Paris award

- ❖ Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar Political leader was stripped of the 'Freedom of Paris Award' conferred to her by the Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo.
- ❖ The move is due to the failure of the Suu Kyi's Government on Myanmar's Rohingya minority issue.
- ❖ It makes Suu Kyi as the first person to lose the freedom at French capital.
- ❖ She was already stripped of her honorary Canadian citizenship and her Amnesty International's "Ambassador of Conscience Award".



## ECONOMY

### TIPS Instant payment system

- ❖ The European Central Bank (ECB) has launched a new Smartphone payment system called 'TARGET Instant Payment Settlement' (TIPS) in Rome.
- ❖ It enables people and companies in Europe transferring Euros to each other within seconds irrespective of working hours of banks.
- ❖ TIPS system is only restricted to the European Union banks.
- ❖ The platform was developed by the Banca d'Italia – in cooperation with the central banks of Germany, France and Spain.





## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### eDrishti software

- ❖ The Indian Railways unveiled 'eDrishti' software that will help the Union Railway Ministry to keep the track of punctuality of trains as well as freight and passenger earnings and much more from anywhere in the country.
- ❖ The software is also connected 'Live' to the kitchens of Indian Rail Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).
- ❖ It will also provide the 'live' status of reserved and unreserved passengers.
- ❖ The software has been developed by the Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS).

## ENVIRONMENT

### India's highest tiger habitat

- ❖ The Dibang valley of Arunachal Pradesh at the height of 3,630 metres could be the highest tiger habitat in the country.
- ❖ A three-year camera trap study conducted in the valley confirms the presence of Tigers in the valley.
- ❖ Earlier, in Bhutan, a tiger was photographed at a height of 4,200 metres in 2012.



## STATES

### Indian Owl Festival 2018

- ❖ The Indian Owl Festival 2018 was held at Pingori village in Purandar taluka of Pune, Maharashtra.
- ❖ It was organized by Ela Foundation to create awareness on owl conservation.
- ❖ It was the country's first owl festival, which featured skits and short films on owls.
- ❖ Out of the 262 species of owls that are found in the world, 75 are threatened.
- ❖ They are protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) of India.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Glinka World Soil Prize 2018

- ❖ Rattan Lal has won the **Glinka World Soil Prize 2018** in a ceremony at the Rome, headquarters of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- ❖ It has been awarded for his outstanding contribution to sustainable soil management.
- ❖ He is a distinguished university professor of soil science at the Ohio State University and also the **President of the International Union of Soil Science (IUSS)**.
- ❖ The Glinka World Soil Prize, named after the **pioneering Russian scientist Konstantin D. Glinka**, is considered the highest honour in the soil science profession.
- ❖ He has been listed among the World's Most Influential Scientific Minds (2012) and among the top 1% of all researchers in agriculture.
- ❖ The **first World Soil Day Award** was given to **"Practical Action", Bangladesh** for organizing the best World Soil Day celebration in 2017.
- ❖ The new FAO-established award is funded by Thailand.



## SPORTS

### International Admiral's Cup Regatta 2018

- ❖ Italy won the 9th edition of International Admiral's Cup Regatta 2018 held at Ettikulam Beach of Kannur at Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala, Kerala.
- ❖ Singapore was the runners-up and the defending champion USA came on the 3rd spot.
- ❖ The host INA finished the 4th in overall position.
- ❖ Bulgaria participated for the first time in this tournament.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Submarine Day - 08 December

- ❖ The Indian Navy celebrates the Submarine Day on 8th December every year.
- ❖ The day commemorates the induction of the first submarine, the erstwhile INS Kalvari, into the Navy on this day in 1967.
- ❖ The Foxtrot class submarine was decommissioned from the Indian Navy on the 31st May, 1996, after 29 years of service.
- ❖ It has to be recalled that the nuclear submarine, INS Arihant was deployed into the Navy on November 5, completing the Nuclear triad.





**8 December -  
Indian Navy  
Submarine Day**

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**Reincarnation  
of INS Kalvari**

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