

**December – 27**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India) has made it clear that schools cannot make Aadhaar a pre-condition to admit the students as per the provisions of law and doing so will be against the recent order of the Supreme Court.
- ❖ Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced the renaming of Child Care Institutes being run in the state as Jagannath Ashrams.
- ❖ The **SASTRA-Ramanujan Award, 2018** was presented to professors **Yifeng Liu of Yale University** and **Jack Thorne of University of Cambridge** for their “spectacular and far-reaching” contributions in the field of arithmetic geometry and number theory.
- ❖ Dr S Jayachandran, popularly known in North Chennai as 'Makkal Maruthuvar' (People's doctor) as he charged only Rs 2 (later increased to 5) as consultation fee from his patients, passed away after a brief illness.
  - Locals endearingly called him '5 rooba doctor' or '2 rooba doctor'.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Power has mandated the use of smart prepaid electricity meters in the country beginning from April 2019. The transition is expected to be completed by next 3 years.
- ❖ The Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS) appointed the retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) official Bijay Kumar as its deputy managing director.
  - The company also appointed N Srinivasan as a non-executive director.

## **NATIONAL**

### **SAGAR TARA Launched**

- ❖ A new Coastal Research Vessel (CRV) SAGAR TARA was launched at the Titagarh Wagons Ltd. Shipyard in Kolkata.
- ❖ The vessel was built for the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ❖ Equipped with the state-of-the-art laboratories, it will enable scientists conduct various oceanographic research missions.

- ❖ Sagar Tara was one of the 2 CRVs manufactured at the shipyard. The other one is Sagar Anveshika.
- ❖ These two will replace Sagar Paschimi and Sagar Purvi in the existing Navy's fleet.



## **ECONOMY**

### **Fine on HUL**

- ❖ The National Anti-Profiteering Authority has imposed a fine of Rs 383 Crore to Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) for failing to reduce the maximum retail price (MRP) of products after last year's GST rate cut.
- ❖ National Anti-profiteering Authority was constituted by the central government.
- ❖ It was constituted to provide an institutional mechanism under the GST law for checking the unfair profit-making activities by the trading community.

### **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) report**

- ❖ The World Intellectual Property Indicators 2018 report was recently released in Geneva by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
- ❖ Globally, 1.4 million patents were granted in 2017.
- ❖ According to the WIPO, China's patent authority led the world in the number of patents granted and it was followed by the US.

- ❖ The number of patents granted by India shot up by 50% in 2017, keeping up an increasing trend.
- ❖ India ranked 10th in the number of patents given last year.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Information Fusion Centre

- ❖ The Union Defence Minister launched the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) at Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) Gurugram, Haryana.
- ❖ Through this, information on “white shipping” will be exchanged with countries in the region to improve maritime domain awareness in the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ IMAC is the single point centre linking all the coastal radar chains to generate a seamless real-time picture of the nearly 7,500 km coastline.

### BizBarde App

- ❖ The isolated central Asian country, Turkmenistan, has launched its own and the first Turkmen messaging app BizBarde.
- ❖ The app will allow the exchange of messages, files, photos and videos.
- ❖ Turkmenistan, the ex-Soviet republic, is one of the world’s most isolated regimes that have blocked many western services like Facebook, Whatsapp and Twitter.

## STATES

### Leave to male staff for childcare

- ❖ The Maharashtra State government has recently issued directions on sanctioning childcare leave to male employees.
- ❖ Now, the state government male employee is eligible for leave for the exact period his wife is bedridden or is unable to take care of the children due to mental health problems.
- ❖ The maximum limit of this leave would be 180 days and can be availed in three spells in a calendar year.

### **KALIA scheme - Odisha**

- ❖ Odisha has recently announced the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme.
- ❖ Its aim is to empower small, marginal & landless farmers as well as landless labourers.
- ❖ According to this scheme an amount of Rs 10,000 per family at the rate of Rs 5,000 each for Kharif and Rabi seasons shall be provided as financial assistance for taking up cultivation.
- ❖ This assistance is for five crop seasons spanning three years from 2018-19 to 2021-22.
- ❖ It would be executed through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.



## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **Mohammed Rafi Awards**

- ❖ The Mohammed Rafi Award has been bestowed upon late music composer Laxmikant Shantaram Kudalkar and playback singer Usha Timothy.
- ❖ The award was instituted by the NGO Spandan Arts.
- ❖ Mohammed Rafi Lifetime Achievement Award - Laxmikant Shantaram Kudalkar.

### **‘Sulagitti’ Narasamma passed away**

- ❖ ‘Sulagitti’ Narasamma, the traditional midwife who helped deliver over 15,000 babies free of charge in rural Karnataka, passed away recently in Bengaluru.
- ❖ She was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2013 and honorary doctorate in 2014 from Tumkur University.
- ❖ She was also presented with ‘The Vayoshreshtha Samman’, Lifetime achievement award by the then President, Pranab Mukherjee.

### **Ricky Ponting - ICC Hall of Fame**

- ❖ Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting became the 25th Australian cricketer to be officially inducted into the ICC's Hall of Fame at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).
- ❖ In February 2018, he was also inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame.
- ❖ Other 2018 inductees in the list include India's Rahul Dravid and England's Claire Taylor, bringing the total members in the prestigious list to 87.



### **Tansen Samman 2018**

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh (MP) government honoured the noted sitar player Manju Mehta with the 2018 Tansen Samman, at the Tansen Music Festival in Gwalior.
- ❖ The Raja Mansingh Tomar Honour was given to the Sankat Mochan Pratishthan in Varanasi for 2017 and the Natrang Pratishthan of New Delhi for 2018.
- ❖ The Tansen Music Festival is organised every year by the MP culture department in memory of Tansen, one of the greatest artists in Indian history.



## SPORTS

### Asian Tour Order of Merit Award

- ❖ Shubhankar Sharma became the youngest and the fifth Indian to win Asian Tour Order of Merit in golf.
- ❖ The Indian won it even before the finish of the last two events of the year.
- ❖ With the win, Shubhankar Sharma also captured the Asian Tour Habitat for Humanity Standings title after a ground-breaking year of achievements.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### Hovercrafts in Sir Creek

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guards has deployed two new hovercrafts in the contentious area around Sir Creek.
- ❖ It is to enhance its surveillance capabilities and to protect against any filtration bids from the Pakistan Side.
- ❖ A hovercraft is an amphibious vehicle capable of travelling over land, water, mud, ice, and other surfaces operating at 50-60 km/hr.



### **e-Commerce Portal - Department of Posts**

- ❖ The Union Communications Minister Manoj Sinha launched the e-Commerce portal of the Department of Posts (DoP).
- ❖ It will provide an e-market place to sellers especially to rural artisans, self-help groups, women entrepreneurs, state and central PSUs and autonomous bodies to sell their products to buyers across the country.

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