

**December – 28**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Dronacharya awardee C.A Kuttappa has been appointed as the India's chief boxing coach at the ongoing national camp.
  - He replaced veteran coach SR Singh.
- ❖ Air Marshal Rajeev Sachdeva who had served in 3 out of 4 wings of Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) headquarters took over as the Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations).
- ❖ Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh was conferred the 'Champions of Change' award by the Vice President in Delhi. He was recognised for his leadership role in transforming the governance in the north-eastern state.
- ❖ Israel's parliament, the Knesset, approved of a law to permit exports of medical marijuana. This made Israel the 3rd country after the Netherlands and Canada, to take its medical cannabis global.
- ❖ The tribal Badaga community in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu celebrated their annual Heddaiyamman festival on 26th December.
- ❖ The Government has constituted a 6-member committee under Dr S Madhavi, Additional director of medical services to enquire into the case of negligence in transfusion of HIV-infected blood to a pregnant woman.
- ❖ M V Le Laperouse, an ultra-modern cruise vessel has become the first luxury ship to berth in the newly built 'modernized cruise terminal' at the Chennai port.
  - This was the maiden visit of the Romania-built vessel this year.
- ❖ Nilanshi Patel, a 16-year old girl from Modasa in North Gujarat has entered the Guinness World Records with the longest hair at 170.5 cm (5 feet 7 inches)
  - The record was currently held by 17-year old Keito Kawahara who had 155.5 cm hair.
- ❖ The Iraqi administration has declared Christmas day, December 25, to be a national holiday in the country. Previously, the Christmas Day had been designated as a Religious break only for the Iraqi Christian community.

## TAMIL NADU

### World Scholar's Cup

- ❖ 13-year-old Aadhi Sai Vijaykaran from Chennai has become the first Indian to win the Junior Debate Championship held at the World Scholar's Cup held at Yale University, USA.



- ❖ The Theme for the cup was 'An Entangled World: diplomacy, human relationships, the science of memory, and literature, art and music'.

## NATIONAL

### Triple Talaq Bill

- ❖ The Lok Sabha has passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, famously referred to as Triple Talaq Bill.
- ❖ The bill would replace the ordinance passed in the month of September.
- ❖ The bill makes the all declaration of triple talaq, including in written or electronic form, to be void (not enforceable in law) and illegal.
- ❖ Declaration of Triple Talaq would be a cognizable offence, attracting up to 3 years' imprisonment with a fine.

### 'Made in India' e-dumper

- ❖ Coal India Limited (CIL) for the first time, has started using an indigenously-made, 205-tonne electric dumper, a critical piece of equipment in mining.

- ❖ This indigenously-made dumper has been developed by the state-owned BEML (Bharat Earth Movers Limited).



- ❖ Coal India has put this electric dumper on a trial in the Northern Coalfields' Amlohri coal mine in Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The current 'electric dumper' supply to CIL is dominated by Russia's Belaz, Tata Hitachi and Caterpillar.

### **12th Annual ISDSI Conference**

- ❖ The 12th Annual Indian Subcontinent Decision Sciences Institute (ISDSI) conference was held in SPJIMR (S.P. Jain Institute of Management and Research), Mumbai.
- ❖ The theme of this international conference is "Data Driven Decision Making in the Digital Age".

### **National Children's Science Congress**

- ❖ The 26th National Children's Science Congress (NCSC) was inaugurated recently by Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik.
- ❖ The theme for this year NCSC is "Science, Technology and Innovations for a clean, Green and Healthy Nation."
- ❖ It provides a platform to the children to showcase their creativity and ability to innovate.

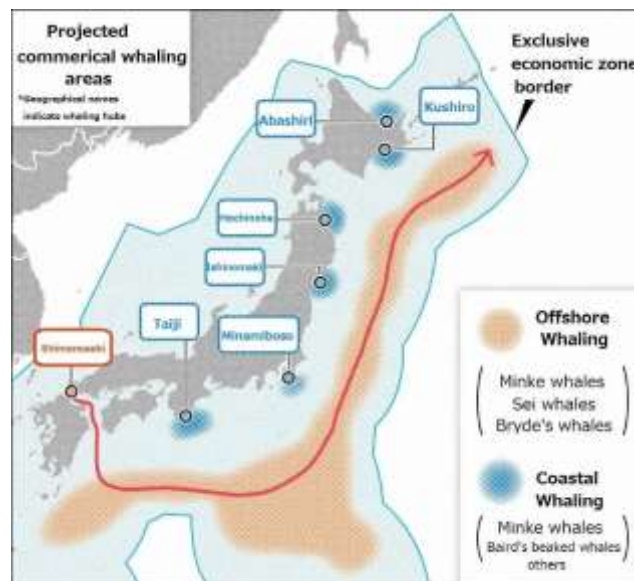
## INTERNATIONAL

### Japan withdraws from IWC

- ❖ The Japanese government has officially announced to withdraw from the International Whaling Commission (IWC).
- ❖ It would enable Japan to pursue commercial whaling in its adjacent waters, including its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

### Reason for withdrawal

- ❖ The global body for the conservation of whales rejected a Tokyo-led proposal to lift a 32-year ban on the commercial hunting of the ocean mammals.



### Thailand Legalizes Medical Marijuana

- ❖ Thailand has approved the use of medical marijuana, making it the first country in southeast Asia to do so.
- ❖ However, the penalty for its recreational use, up to 5 years in prison for possession, would still remain in place.

## ECONOMY

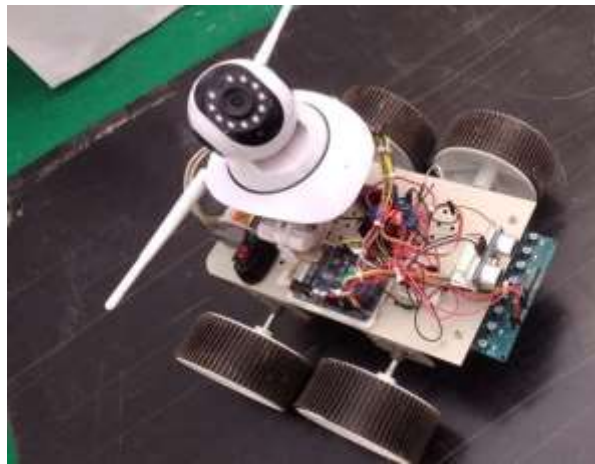
### Economic Capital Framework

- ❖ The RBI, in consultation with the government of India has set up a 6-member committee to review the economic capital framework of the central bank.
- ❖ It will be headed by Former RBI Chief Bimal Jalan.
- ❖ The committee will suggest how the central bank should handle its reserves and whether it can transfer its surplus to the government.
- ❖ The six-member panel has former deputy RBI governor Rakesh Mohan as its vice chairman.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### USTAAD

- ❖ The mechanical branch of Central Railway 's Nagpur division has developed a new AI-powered robot named USTAAD.
- ❖ USTAAD - Undergear Surveillance through Artificial Intelligence Assisted Droid.

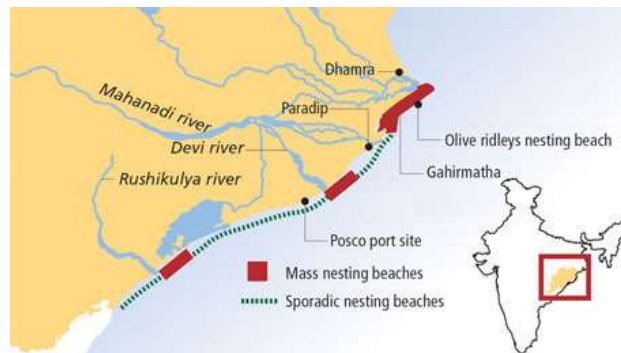


- ❖ It examines parts of the coach in real time with a HD camera and transmits them over WiFi.
- ❖ It will reduce chances of human error while examining under gear equipment on Indian Railways trains.

## ENVIRONMENT

### New Olive Ridley Nesting Site

- ❖ Recently, the Odisha forest department added another olive ridley mass nesting site Bahuda Rookery at beach on Bahuda river mouth in Ganjam district.
- ❖ It is located around 20 km to south of Rushikulya rookery coast.
- ❖ Gahirmatha marine sanctuary and Rushikulya rookery coast in Ganjam district are the main Olive Ridley Nesting sites in Odisha.



- ❖ Of these sites, Gahirmatha marine sanctuary is the largest rookery (mass nesting site) of Olive Ridley turtles.
- ❖ Odisha is home to 50% of the total world's population of Olive Ridley and about 90% of Indian population of sea turtles.

### Kuno Palpur Sanctuary

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has notified the 'Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary' as a National park.
- ❖ The move would enable translocation of lions from Gir in Gujarat to Kuno park.
- ❖ Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary, now extended by 413 sq. km, has been developed for the translocation of Asiatic Lions project.

## STATES

### 'Dwijing Festival' – Assam

- ❖ The 3rd 'Dwijing Festival' celebrations commenced in the banks of the Aie river in Chirang district of Assam on December 26.

- ❖ The 12-day festival was organised by Assam Tourism and Bodoland Tourism.
- ❖ The festival started as Aie River Festival in 2016-17 to promote river tourism in the rural areas under the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC).



- ❖ It started under the name of 'Aie River Winter Festival'.
- ❖ The name was officially changed to "Dwijing (river bank in Bodo language)" in 2017.

### **Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana**

- ❖ Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat has launched the Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana (AAUY) on the occasion of 94th birth anniversary of Vajpayee.
- ❖ It has made the first hill state in the country to offer the universal health coverage.
- ❖ Under the scheme each household in the state will be able to avail medical treatment of up to Rs 5 lakhs annually.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **Mrs. India 2018**

- ❖ Divya Patidar Joshi from Madhya Pradesh was crowned with the Mrs. India 2018 title at the Mrs. India My Identity Beauty Pageant 2018 finale held in New Delhi.



- ❖ With this win, in the year 2019, she would be representing India for Mrs. Universe title.

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