

December – 08

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Pakistan's leg-spinner Yasir Shah became the fastest cricketer to take 200 Test wickets breaking an 82-year-old record, beating Australian leg-spinner Clarrie Grimmett's record of 36 Tests set against South Africa in Johannesburg in 1936.
 - Yasir achieved this by taking New Zealand's batsman Will Somerville wicket in Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ The government appointed Lalit Kumar, a 1995-batch Indian Economic Service (IES) officer as the new government nominee on private sector ICICI Bank.
 - He would replace **Lok Ranjan**.
- ❖ The first India-ASEAN InnoTech Summit was held in New Delhi. It was organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) in association with the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and the Ministry of External Affairs.

NATIONAL

Conference of Parties (COP-24)

- ❖ The 24th meeting of Conference of Parties (COP-24) to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held at Katowice, Poland.
- ❖ The COP-24 is very significant as it is expected to finalise guidelines for implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted in 2016.
- ❖ The theme of this year's India Pavilion is '**One World One Sun One Grid**'.
- ❖ This theme was highlighted by the Indian Prime Minister during the 1st assembly of the International Solar Alliance on 2nd October 2018.
- ❖ India will be setting up pavilion to create awareness about India's positive climate actions in various sectors of economy.

Rajiv Kumar Committee

- ❖ The Union Government has constituted 6-member committee to look at selling as many as 149 small and marginal oil and gas fields of state-owned
 - Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and

- Oil India Ltd (OIL)
to private and foreign companies to boost domestic output.
- ❖ The panel is chaired by the NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar.

SHINYUU Maitri 18

- ❖ The first bilateral air exercise SHINYUU Maitri-18 between the Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) began at Air Force Station of Agra.
- ❖ The theme of this exercise is joint Mobility/Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) on Transport aircraft.

TROPEX 2019

- ❖ The Indian Navy will conduct its flagship large-scale coastal defence exercise Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX) from January to March 2019.
- ❖ The exercise is to test robustness of entire coastal security apparatus.
- ❖ As part of TROPEX, Indian Navy will conduct large-scale coastal defence exercise 'Exercise Sea Vigil'.
- ❖ This exercise will involve all stake holders across mainland and island territories.
- ❖ It is yearly exercise that takes place on Western Seaboard.
- ❖ It provides opportunity to test combat capability of the Indian Navy, Indian Army, IAF and ICG.

PRASAD Scheme

- ❖ The Union Government has included
 - Gangotri and Yamunotri in Uttrarakhand,
 - Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh and
 - Parasnath in Jharkhandunder the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) to develop pilgrimage and heritage destinations in the country.
- ❖ With the new additions, the number of sites under PRASAD has now reached to 41 in 25 states.

- ❖ It was launched in 2014-15 by the Union Ministry of Tourism.
- ❖ It focuses on the development and beautification of the identified pilgrimage destinations.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

UNESCO/Emir Jaber al Ahmad al Jaber al Sabah Prize

- Bangladeshi disabilities' advocate Vashkar Bhattacharjee and
 - Chinese private sector ICT enterprise, Tencent
- were awarded **UNESCO/Emir Jaber al Ahmad al Jaber al Sabah Prize** for **Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**.
- ❖ They were awarded for their outstanding contribution to empowerment of persons with disabilities through application of ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies) to access information and knowledge.
 - ❖ Vashkar Bhattacharjee was awarded in individual category whereas Tencent was awarded in organizational category.
 - ❖ The Prize will be offered biennially in 2018/2019 and 2020/2021. The Prize will be divided equally to
 - An Individual Person and
 - An Organization.
 - ❖ It is sponsored by Kuwait in memory of its late ruler Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Preeti Saran elected to UN's socio-economic, cultural panel

- ❖ The Former senior Indian diplomat Preeti Saran has been elected to the Asia Pacific seat on the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) of the UN for 4 years.
- ❖ This election to the 18-member committee of experts was done by the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).



Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

- ❖ CESCR was set up in 1985 by the ECOSOC.
- ❖ CESCR monitors the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- ❖ The CECSR meets in Geneva for four weeks every year.

Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award

- ❖ Dr. Rajanish Giri, assistant professor IIT-Mandi, has been awarded the Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award (IYBA) 2018.
- ❖ Dr. Giri was selected for his proposed innovative idea on Zika virus Capsid Folding and inhibitor discovery.
- ❖ He has also proven expertise in understanding and solving the fundamental problems of protein folding in various structured and Intrinsically Disordered Proteins.
- ❖ The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), the Ministry of Science and Technology selected Dr. Giri for the award.

Ballon d'Or award 2018

- ❖ Croatia's midfielder Luca Modrich has won prestigious honor of football, Ballon d'Or.



- ❖ He was rewarded for his key role in Croatia's historic run to FIFA World Cup final (defeated by France) and his club Real Madrid's 3rd straight Champions League trophy.
- ❖ With this, he ended the tenure of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo for almost a decade. Messi and Ronaldo have won this award since 2008.
- ❖ Norway's Ada Hegerberg (23) wins Women's Ballon d'Or. It was the inaugural edition of Women's Ballon d'Or.
- ❖ She is 3-time Women's Champions League winner with French side Lyon and scored tournament-record 15 times in the last season.

MISCELLANEOUS

2023 IAAF World Championships

- ❖ The Hungarian capital Budapest was officially confirmed as the host city of the 2023 International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championships.
- ❖ The decision in this regard was taken at the IAAF Council meeting held in Monaco.
- ❖ The World Championships will return to Europe after a six-year hiatus following Doha, Qatar in 2019 and Eugene, USA in 2021.

- ❖ The 2017 IAAF World Championships was held at London, England.
- ❖ Budapest has been awarded the title of European Capital of Sport for 2019.

“Heart Attack Rewind” - media campaign

- ❖ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched media campaign “Heart Attack Rewind”, calling for elimination of industrially produced trans-fat in the food supply.
 - ❖ It will support FSSAI’s global target of eliminating trans-fat in India by 2022, a year ahead of global target by World Health Organization (WHO).
 - ❖ It is in line with FSSAI’s objective to get ‘Freedom from Trans Fat: India@75’.
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