

**December – 09**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ A two-day “Conference on EU-India Partnership for Cultural Heritage Conservation” was held at the National Museum Auditorium, Janpath, New Delhi.
- ❖ The Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Sunil Lamba released ‘Blue Waters Ahoy!’ a book chronicling the Indian Navy’s history from 2001-10 in New Delhi. The book has been authored by Vice Admiral Anup Singh.
  - The book is the 6<sup>th</sup> volume in Navy’s history; the first five had covered the period from 1945 to 2000.
- ❖ The Delhi government announced the launch of a common mobility card called ‘One’, with a tagline of ‘One Delhi One Ride’, for easy commute on public transport. The card carries the logos of all 3 transport operators in the city – DMRC (Delhi Metro Rail Corporation), DTC (Delhi Transport Corporation) and the Delhi Government.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs released a booklet in English language titled “A Handbook for Students on Cyber Safety” to create awareness among the Students and Adolescents about the cyber safety.
- ❖ The State Bank of India has roped in Asian Games gold medallist Swapna Barman as brand ambassador for its digital app YONO (You only need one).
- ❖ The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) announced the appointment of Jon Ridgeon as its new CEO following the approval by the IAAF Council on the first day of its 215th Council Meeting in Monaco.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **‘Nel’ Jayaraman passed away**

- ❖ Eminent agriculturalist Jayaraman, who pioneered the protection and propagation of indigenous paddy varieties in Tamil Nadu, passed away in Chennai.
- ❖ Jayaraman, hailing from Thiruthuraipoondi, has been credited with documenting and protecting more than 169 paddy varieties.
- ❖ His diligent work in the field of protecting the gene prototypes of indigenous paddy varieties won him the

- National Award for best genome saviour in 2015 and
- Best organic farmer award of Tamil Nadu government in 2011.
- ❖ He also has written several books including Nellathikaram and Mamarunthagum Parampariya Nel.
- ❖ He also launched “Save Our Rice” campaign and organised paddy festival (every may) at his native village Adirangam in Tiruvarur district in 2005.



## **ECONOMY**

### **e-ATM**

- ❖ ICICI Securities (ISec), a brokerage firm, launched the ‘eATM’ instant fund credit feature.
- ❖ It will enable real-time payments in bank accounts upon selling stocks in Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- ❖ This feature is available to retail investors who can get payment against sell of stocks in BSE instantly compared to earlier waiting time of T+2 days.
- ❖ The payment is made directly to the bank accounts to within 30 minutes and the limit is Rs. 50,000 per client per day.

### **‘Chance of Approval’ feature launched**

- ❖ Paisabazaar.com has launched a first of its kind feature Chance of Approval, that will help loan applicants choose their most-suited lender on its platform in India.

- ❖ 'Chance of Approval', is an advanced predictive algorithm that has been created by Paisabazaar.com using the last four years of lending data.
- ❖ It will match borrower's profile with the lending criteria of banks and NBFC to provide customers with the chances of getting their loan application approved.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### India's first privately built satellite - ExseedSAT 1

- ❖ SpaceX has recently launched India's first privately built satellite ExseedSAT 1 from the Vandenberg air force base in California, USA.
- ❖ It has been launched along with 63 other satellite from 18 countries in the company's largest-ever "rideshare" mission on a twice-reused Falcon 9 rocket.
- ❖ ExseedSAT 1 was built by the Mumbai based Startup Exseedspace.
- ❖ ExseedSAT 1 is an open radio transponder that works on ham frequencies. The satellite will have a life span of 5 years.

**'V FOR VICTORY' BEAMED IN MORSE CODE**

**Exseed Sat-1**

- It's an open radio transponder, to serve amateur radio community
- Built by Saratoga-based startup Exseed Space
- People can receive signals at 145.99 Mhz with help of TV tuner, walkie-talkies with beam antenna

**Size:**  
10 cm X 10 cm X 10 cm  
height of a coffee mug

**5-6 passes over India daily** To orbit Earth every **90 minutes**

**How action unfolded**

**12:10 am Tuesday (IST):** Lift off from California after 10-day delay due to technical and weather reasons

- 43 minutes later, ExseedSat-1 went into orbit
- All satellites placed into low Earth orbit at a 5-minute interval over a 5 hours
- 2 tiny switches at the bottom of ExseedSat-1 keep it switched off
- Once the satellite is ejected, switches are released and the satellite wakes up
- After all satellites drift out, antenna of ExceedSat-1 deployed to start beeping signals
- Beams "V for Victory" in Morse code
- Data transmitted to a ground station at Hyderabad where it was integrated

**Cost ₹2Cr**

**Biggest US 'rideshare'**

- Falcon 9 rocket launch broke records for tech billionaire Elon Musk's SpaceX
- 10th launch of US private firm this year, breaking last year's record of 18
- Falcon 9 carried 15 microsats, 49 cubesats
- Payloads from 18 countries and 35 organisations
- Launch chartered by a company called Spaceflight, which specializes in space "rideshares"
- Two-stage rocket is reusable; landed after mission, to be dried out for launch again

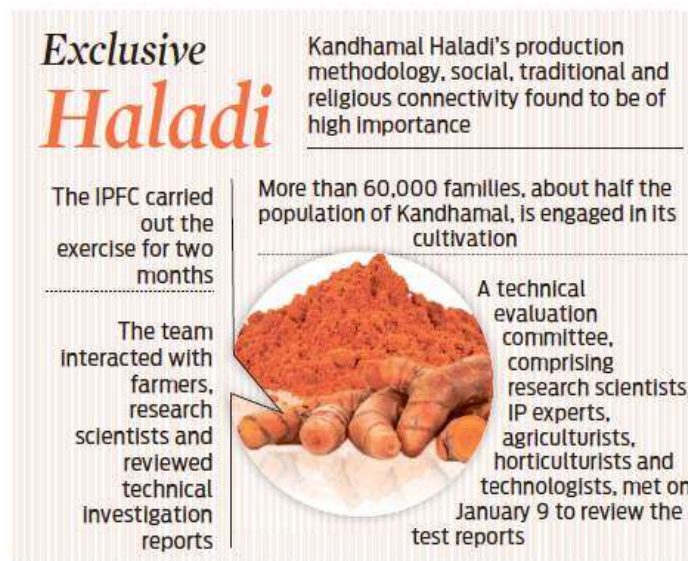
**World record**  
satellites launched in one go  
India in Feb 2017: **104**

SpaceX: **64**

## ENVIRONMENT

### Odisha's Kandhamal Haldi – GI Tag

- ❖ Odisha's Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric) will soon get Geographical Indications (GI) tag.
- ❖ Its registration was moved by Kandhamal Apex Spices Association for Marketing and was accepted under Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- ❖ Kandhamal Haldi is famous for its healing properties. It is main cash crop of tribal people in Kandhamal.



**Exclusive Haladi**


Kandhamal Haladi's production methodology, social, traditional and religious connectivity found to be of high importance

The IPFC carried out the exercise for two months

More than 60,000 families, about half the population of Kandhamal, is engaged in its cultivation

The team interacted with farmers, research scientists and reviewed technical investigation reports

A technical evaluation committee, comprising research scientists, IP experts, agriculturists, horticulturists and technologists, met on January 9 to review the test reports



## STATES

### SMART initiative

- ❖ The Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis launched a unique initiative called- State of Maharashtra's Agribusiness and Rural Transformation or "SMART".
- ❖ This will be implemented in 10,000 villages with an objective to achieve sustainable farming within the next 3 years.
- ❖ Its objective is to propel the rural transformation and double the farmers income by 2022.

- ❖ This is a World Bank (WB) assisted project.
- ❖ Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is the industry partner of this initiative.

## PEETHA

- ❖ The Odisha Chief Minister has launched a new programme for transparency and awareness on various government schemes, called- the Peoples Empowerment Enabling Transparency and Accountability or PEETHA.
- ❖ PEETHA is based on a 3-T (Technology, Transparency and Team work) model.
- ❖ PEETHA is a sub-scheme of the Odisha government's flagship Ama Gaon Ama Bikas Yojana (AGAB).
- ❖ Under this initiative, camps will be organised at the gram panchayat level from the 15th to the 20th of each month, beginning December 2018.



**PEETHA**  
**Transparent delivery of government schemes**

**Scheme Details:**

- Create awareness about government schemes
- Improve transparency in distribution of benefits
- Run as sub-scheme of **Ama Gaon Ama Bikas**
- **Special camps** to be organised at **GP level** from **15<sup>th</sup>** to **20<sup>th</sup>** of every month
- **Block Level Observers** to monitor the scheme
- **Voluntary Social Workers** to help in implementation
- **Best Panchayat** of the **block** will be awarded **₹5 lakh** every month
- **Best Panchayat** of the **district** will also be awarded
- **Best Panchayats, Blocks and Districts** will be selected at state level and given special funds





## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### IAAF athletes of the year

- ❖ Kenya's Marathon world record holder Eliud Kipchoge and Colombian jumper Caterine Ibarguen was awarded with Male and Female World athlete of the year.
- ❖ Both are the first-time winners of the award.
- ❖ They have been awarded at the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Athletics Awards 2018 held at the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco.
- ❖ Olympic Champion Kipchoge shattered the world marathon record by 78 seconds.
- ❖ Whereas Ibarguen was the Diamond league champion in both long jumps and triple jump.
- ❖ Eliud Kipchoge also won the London Marathon 2018.
- ❖ Sweden's Vaultler Armand Duplantis and American Sydney McLaughlin won the Men's and Women's Rising star awards respectively.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Volunteer Day – 05 December

- ❖ December 5 is annually seen as International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development which is also called as International Volunteer Day.
- ❖ The theme of the International Volunteer Day 2018 is: "Volunteers build Resilient Communities".
- ❖ This day celebrates the sacrifice and contributions of the volunteers and organizations.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### 1st Indian to scale Sahayadri mountain range

- ❖ Tuhin Satarkar, became the first Indian to climb three routes in the treacherous Sahayadri mountain range in 12 days.
- ❖ He climbed 3 famous peaks
  - Dhodap,
  - Jivdhan and
  - Naneghat
- ❖ These are known to have been ascended by Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and his Marathi Malvas.
- ❖ Sahyadri is a mountain range of Western Ghats, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the eight “hottest hot-spots” of biological diversity in the world.

### Architecture of Justice- book release



- ❖ The Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi released a book named “Architecture of Justice: A pictorial walk-through of the supreme court and High courts of India” in New Delhi.
- ❖ It was authored by father-son duo Vinay Thakur and Amogh Thakur.

- ❖ The book is a sequel to Vinay Thakur's earlier book 'The Courts of India: Past to Present' (2016).

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