

December – 17

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ NASA's Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) spacecraft has found water locked inside the asteroid Bennu.
 - It revealed the presence of hydroxyl molecules that contain oxygen and hydrogen atoms bonded together.
- ❖ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has appointed Brijendra Pal Singh as the new chairman and President of Film and Television Institute of India.
 - He succeeded Anupam Kher, who had resigned from the post in October.
- ❖ The Delhi High Court has ordered a ban on the sale of online medicines by E-pharmacies across the country. A bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V K Rao has also ordered the central and the Delhi governments to implement the order.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a fine amounting to Rs. 1 crore on the Indian Bank for violating the cyber security norms. The penalty was imposed under the provision of Banking Regulations Act 1949.
- ❖ Sascha Bajin, the coach of the world number five Naomi Osaka, became the first-ever recipient of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Coach of the Year Award.
- ❖ The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) India appointed the former SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya as the new Chairman of its board.
 - She will succeed former banker M. V. Nair.

NATIONAL

Partners Forum 2018

- ❖ The Fourth edition of Partners' Forum was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 12th December in New Delhi.
- ❖ The two-day international conference is hosted by the government of India in association with Partnership for Maternal, New born and child Health (PMNCH).
- ❖ The programme is framed on the objective of Survive – Thrive – Transform.

SC verdict over Rafale Deal

- ❖ The Supreme Court has given clean chit to the NDA government for purchase of 36 Rafale fighter Jets.
- ❖ The court gave clean chit on three aspects
 - Purchasing of 36 Rafale jets instead of 126
 - Pricing of Rafale jets and
 - Selection of Indian offset partners.
- ❖ The bench consists of Ranjan Gogoi as the chairman and other two members S K Kaul and K M Joseph.

Conference on ‘Good Governance- Focus on Aspirational Districts’

- ❖ A 2-day Regional Conference on ‘Good Governance – Focus on Aspirational Districts’ concluded at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- ❖ It was organized by
 - The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), the union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and
 - The Government of Kerala.

1st International Conference on Sustainable Water Management

- ❖ The first 2-day International Conference, on the theme - ‘Sustainable Water Management’, commenced at the Indian School of Business (ISB), Mohali in Punjab.
- ❖ It was organized under the National Hydrology Project, Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation by the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).

ECONOMY

Israel becomes a member of the FATF

- ❖ Israel has recently become a full member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

- ❖ It is an international body set up to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other threats to the international financial system.
- ❖ Israel became an observer to the FATF in February 2016.
- ❖ Earlier in 2000, Israel was blacklisted by the organization and was removed from the list in 2002, but now has become the group's 38th member.
- ❖ A FATF compliance report on Israel ranked the country as one of 3 leading Country, alongside the US and the UK, for the effective FATF operations.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ENSURE- National Livestock Mission-EDEG portal launched

- ❖ Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh has launched a portal ENSURE-National Livestock Mission-EDEG.
- ❖ It was developed by the NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) and operated under the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries.
- ❖ The subsidy payment for activities related to poultry, small ruminants, pigs, etc. goes directly to the beneficiary's account through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- ❖ The Subsidy payments will be under the National Livestock Mission's component called the Entrepreneurship Development and Employment Generation (EDEG).
- ❖ The portal "ENSURE" has been developed to make the process of DBT better, simpler and transparent.

STATES

'Operation Minimum wage'

- ❖ The Delhi government has launched a 10-day special inspection drive named "Operation Minimum Wage".
- ❖ The special drive is to check the implementation of minimum wage rules set by the Union Territory government.
- ❖ The operation will continue till December 21, 2018.
- ❖ The violation would be checked as per the Minimum Wages Act, 2017 and as per the Act, the labourers can lodge a complaint by calling 155214.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

2018 Sports Illustrated Sportsperson of the Year

- ❖ The NBA champion Golden State Warriors have been named the 2018 Sports Illustrated Sportsperson of the Year.
- ❖ The Golden State is the fourth team ever to receive the prestigious honour.
- ❖ Previous winners of this award were U.S. Men's Olympic Hockey Team (1980), the U.S. Women's Soccer team (1999) and the Boston Red Sox (2004).

SPORTS

BWF World Tour Title

- ❖ The BWF (Badminton World Federation) World Tour Finals was held recently in Tianhe, Guangzhou, China.
- ❖ PV Sindhu created history on 16th December 2018 as she became the first Indian to win the BWF World Tour Finals.
- ❖ She defeated Japan's Nozomi Okuhara, the 2017 world champion. It was the first title for her in 2018.
- ❖ Shi Yuqi of China won the Men's Singles title defeating Kento Momota of Japan.

Other winners

- ❖ Men's Doubles - Li Junhui & Liu Yuchen (China)
- ❖ Women's Doubles - Misaki Matsutomo & Ayaka Takahashi (Japan)
- ❖ Mixed Doubles - Wang Yilü & Huang Dongping (China).

Hockey World Cup 2018

- ❖ The Hockey World Cup 2018 was held at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ❖ Belgium Hockey team won their first ever World cup title by defeating The Netherlands.
- ❖ Belgium finished first, while the Netherlands and Australia finished second and third respectively.

- ❖ India came at sixth place in the Hockey World Cup 2018.



- ❖ India was defeated in the Quarter Finals by the Netherlands.
- ❖ Best Player of the tournament - Arthur Van Doren (Belgium).
- ❖ Goalkeeper of the tournament - Primin Blaak.
- ❖ Fair Play award – Spain.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Energy Conservation Day – 14 December

- ❖ The National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated every year on 14th December in India.
- ❖ This year marks the 28th year of its celebration.
- ❖ The observance of the day intends to create awareness on the importance of energy efficiency and conservation.
- ❖ The day was established by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in 2001 when they executed the Energy Conservation Act of India.
- ❖ The Energy Efficiency Bureau (BEE) is a statutory body which works under the Ministry of Power and helps in the development of policies and strategies to reduce use of energy.

MISCELLANEOUS

Jana Bankable Debit Card

- ❖ Jana Small Finance Bank in association with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has launched Jana Bankable Debit Card.



- ❖ The Jana Small Finance Bank is the official sponsor of BCCI for all the cricket matches that are played in India.
 - ❖ This card is designed for cricket fans who like deals and offers on online shopping, fitness related activities.
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