

December – 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has released a G.O to start Montessori education-based kindergarten (KG) classes in 2,381 Anganwadi centres at government middle schools in the state. In this regard an order was issued on December 11, 2018 by the Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme department.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of 2 new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Tamil Nadu (Madurai) and Telangana (Bibi nagar) under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana on December 17, 2018.
- ❖ Shree Harsh Vardhan Shringla has been appointed as the Ambassador of India to the USA. He will be succeeding Navtej Sarna as the ambassador to the United States of America.
- ❖ Charles Michel has resigned from the post of the Prime Minister of Belgium. The resignation came as his government was under immense pressure from the opposition over his government's support for the UN global compact on migration.
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet had approved the appointment of Pranab Kumar Das as the new Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
 - He will succeed S. Ramesh, who superannuates on December 31.
- ❖ Former India opener W.V. Raman has been appointed the new coach of the Indian women's cricket team.
- ❖ Hamid Nehal Ansari, an Indian national who spent 6 years in a Pakistani jail on charges of espionage after being arrested in 2012, has been released on December 18 in 2018 by Pakistan.

TAMIL NADU

Chennaiyil Thiruvaiyaru – Music Festival

- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM inaugurated the 14th edition of Chennaiyil Thiruvaiyaru, the annual music festival organised by Lakshman Sruthi Musicals.
- ❖ He conferred the life-time achievement '**Isaiyazhwar**' title upon **thavil maestro Padmashri A.K. Palanivel**.

- ❖ The award carries a gold medal and it has been instituted by Chennaiyil Thiruvaiyaru organising committee.
- ❖ In memory of 'Mellisai Mannar' MS Viswanathan, a **wax statue** of the legend was unveiled by Padma Bhushan Saroja Devi on this occasion.



NATIONAL

World Bank Report on efficiency gap

- ❖ The World Bank recently released a report titled 'In the Dark: How Much Do Power Sector Distortions Cost South Asia'.
- ❖ As per the report, Efficiency gap in India's power sector costs the Indian economy 4% every year, which equivalent to \$86 billion in 2016 Financial Year.
- ❖ There was a shortage of 14% in India in meeting coal demand in 2016 Financial Year.
- ❖ In 2016, around 20% of electricity generated was lost during transmission and distribution. This rate is the highest loss rate in the World.
- ❖ India was at the 80th spot among 137 economies in the reliability of electricity supply as per the 2018 Global Competitiveness Report.

Strategy for New India@75 – NITI Aayog

- ❖ The NITI Aayog has unveiled a strategy document called the “Strategy for New India@75”.
- ❖ It talks about various several economic reforms that should be taken in order to accelerate India’s economy to reach the 4 trillion USD mark.
- ❖ The main idea is to go for such reforms in the economy that will keep India growing at 8% annually that could be quickened to 9-10% by 2022-23.
- ❖ The reforms should also ensure that such growth of economy is clean, inclusive, formalised and sustainable.

Increase the size of Indian economy from \$2.7 trillion in 2017-18 to \$4 trillion by 2022-23

- ▶ Better ecosystem for innovation
- ▶ Augmentation of industrial infrastructure
- ▶ Promote MSMEs, improve ease of doing business
- ▶ Double the mining area explored from 10% to 20%

Grow the investment rate from 29% of GDP to 36%

Raise the export of goods and services from \$478 billion to \$800 billion

Improve the tax-to-GDP ratio from 17% to 22%

Keep inflation within the targeted range of 2-6% of GDP

To address rural/farm stress

- ▶ Modernise agricultural technology, increase productivity
- ▶ Crop diversification & reorientation of fertiliser subsidy
- ▶ Adopting the Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing Act
- ▶ Amend the Essential Commodities Act, stable export policy
- ▶ Infrastructure status for agriculture value chains
- ▶ Link production to processing, village level procurement centres

Financial Inclusion

- ▶ New scheme for comprehensive financial literacy
- ▶ Review banking correspondents and give better incentives
- ▶ Tech use assessment of credit-worthiness for households

Better living

- ▶ Provide every family with a pucca house
- ▶ Water connection, toilet facilities
- ▶ Make 24x7 power available to all by '19

Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2016

- ❖ The Lok Sabha has passed Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2016 on 19th December 2018 to protect surrogacy in the country.
- ❖ The bill has banned commercial surrogacy and allows only altruistic surrogacy.
- ❖ The bill protects the rights of the surrogate mother and the child born from surrogacy and promotes the ethical surrogacy.
- ❖ The Surrogacy is defined as an agreement between a couple who cannot conceive and a surrogate mother to carry their child.
- ❖ The bill is applicable to all the states of India except Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The National Surrogacy board consists of
 - Chairperson – Minister in-charge of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

- Vice Chairperson – Secretary to the Government of India in-charge of Department dealing with surrogacy matters.
- and 16 other members.



Eklavya Model Residential Schools

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given its approval for the revamped Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) scheme.
- ❖ Under this, EMRSs will be set up in every block where the Scheduled Tribes population is more than 50% and has at least 20,000 tribal persons.
- ❖ The EMRSs will be run by an Autonomous Society, on the lines of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti. This society will be under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- ❖ EMRS is a central government scheme.

National Cancer Institute (NCI)

- ❖ India's largest Cancer Institute, National Cancer Institute (NCI), has been opened for public services in Jhajjar, Haryana.
- ❖ The National Cancer Institute has been established under a project of Delhi's AIIMS.
- ❖ Dr G.K. Rath will head the NCI.
- ❖ NCI will act as the nodal institution for all cancer-related activities in India.
- ❖ It will be linked to regional cancer centres and other cancer institutes of India.

WHERE?
Located in Haryana's Jhajjar, about 50 km from AIIMS Delhi campus
➤ National Cancer Institute (NCI), touted to be India's biggest cancer hospital, is spread over 60 acres of AIIMS' 300-acre Jhajjar campus

BEDS
710 beds (surgical oncology: 200; medical oncology: 200; radiation oncology: 120; palliative care: 40; ICU, daycare, other departments: 150+)

OPERATION THEATRES
25, all modular

EQUIPMENT | 2 MRI machines; 4 PET scanners; 3 brachytherapy machines and 5 linear accelerators; Asia's first automated core lab; public sector proton facility

STATUS

IPD block Civil work complete; equipment being installed	OPD block Ready; to be functional from Tuesday
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- By January 2019, 250 beds and ICU facility to be operational, officials said
- By December 2019, AIIMS plans to start 500 beds
- NCI will be 100% operational by 2020

MANPOWER: 110
doctors, nurses

Highest aviation safety ranking for India

- ❖ The US regulator Federation of Aviation Administration (FAA) retained the highest aviation safety ranking for India.
- ❖ According to FAA, India's International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) rating remains 'Category 1'.
- ❖ This ranking was based on an audit of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in July 2018.
- ❖ This showed India's adherence to the standards laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and oversight of Indian Airlines.

INTERNATIONAL

1st country in the world to deliver drone-assisted Vaccines

- ❖ Vanuatu has become the first country in the World to deliver drone-assisted Vaccines to babies as per the United Nations norms.

- ❖ A one-month old baby in Vanuatu was immunized using vaccines delivered by a drone.
- ❖ Vanuatu, previously known as the New Hebrides Islands is an archipelago nation consisting of 83 islands in the southwest Pacific Ocean.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Shiksha Setu Mobile App

- ❖ The Haryana Government has launched a mobile app named as ‘Shiksha Setu’ with an aim to help the students of the state.
- ❖ The ‘Shikhsa Setu’ App will help in bringing transparency in the Education Department and in the administration of colleges in the state.
- ❖ This mobile app will contain all the information related to attendance, fee, online admission and scholarships in all the Haryana government colleges.

Gas 2019

- ❖ The Civil aviation ministry along with the Airport Authority of India (AAI) launched an app named ‘GAS 2019’.
- ❖ This app will enable users to interact with the co-delegates and speakers besides providing a platform for networking through personal and group chats.
- ❖ This was launched ahead of the global aviation summit to be held in Mumbai in January 2019.
- ❖ The 2-day summit will be hosted by
 - The Civil Aviation Ministry,
 - AAI and
 - FICCI.

ENVIRONMENT

Asiatic Lion Conservation Project

- ❖ The “Asiatic Lion Conservation Project” has been launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

- ❖ The main objective of this project is to work for the conservation of the world's last ranging free Asiatic Lion population and the ecosystem associated with it.
- ❖ The project will be funded under the 'Development of Wildlife Habitat (CSS-DWH)' scheme which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- ❖ The cost will be borne in the 60:40 ratio by the Central and State government.
- ❖ The Asiatic Lions are listed as 'Endangered' under the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List. Its population is restricted to the state of Gujarat in India.
