

December – 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ 'Period. End of Sentence', has been shortlisted at the 91st Oscar in the Documentary Short Subject category.
- ❖ Gujarat was ranked as Best Performer in first ever States Start-up Ranking 2018 released by DIPP (Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion) at an event in New Delhi.
- ❖ Mohinder Pratap Singh was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Mongolia.
- ❖ Ashok Kumar was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Djibouti.
- ❖ The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) cleared the name of Arti Chhabra Srivastava as the first full-time Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of SEBI for an initial period of 3 years.
 - CVOs are considered an extended hand of the CVC, which is tasked with detecting graft by officials holding the public office.
- ❖ India's first private sector unit for manufacturing Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) has recently been opened at Adani Aerospace Park near Shamshabad in Hyderabad.
- ❖ The former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh released his book titled "Changing India" at an event in New Delhi.

NATIONAL

India's first military flight using Blended Bio-Jet Fuel

- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) flown India's first military flight using Blended Bio-Jet Fuel on an An-32 transport aircraft in Chandigarh.
- ❖ The project is a combined effort of IAF, DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organization), Directorate General Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA) and CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP).
- ❖ The IAF has intended to fly the An-32 with 10 % bio jet fuel on January 26, 2019 Republic Day flypast.

- ❖ This fuel is made from Jatropha oil sourced from Chhattisgarh Biodiesel Development Authority (CBDA) and then processed at CSIR-IIP, Dehradun.
- ❖ Earlier in August 2018, Commercial airline SpiceJet flew country's first ever bio-jet fuel-powered flight between Dehradun and Delhi.



Consumer Protection Bill

- ❖ The Lok Sabha has passed the Consumer Protection Bill, 2018 recently, which will replace the Consumer Protection Act (CPA), 1986.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to enforce consumer rights and to offer a mechanism for complaint redressal related to the deficiencies in goods and services.
- ❖ The Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions will be set up at District, State and National levels as per the bill passed.
- ❖ The District Commissions will have the mandate to hear complaints having claim worth one crore rupees. In the CPA, 1986 this limit was 20 lakh rupees.
- ❖ At the State level the limit has been enhanced from 1 crore rupees to 15 crore rupees.
- ❖ Complaints above 15 crore rupees worth of claim will be settled by the National Commission.



PATH TO CONSUMER RIGHTS

1986 Consumer Protection Act enforces provides for redressal of complaints about defects in goods or deficiency in services.

2011 Amendment introduces provision to file complaints on-line. Bill lapses with dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha

2015 Consumer Protection Bill introduced with provisions for

product liability, unfair contracts, and setting up of regulatory body.

2016 Standing Committee gives recommendations on product liability, powers and functions of regulatory body, penalties for misleading ads, their endorsers

2018 Consumer Protection Bill introduced in January 2018 to replace the 2015 Bill

INTERNATIONAL

Pentagon Chief Mattis quits

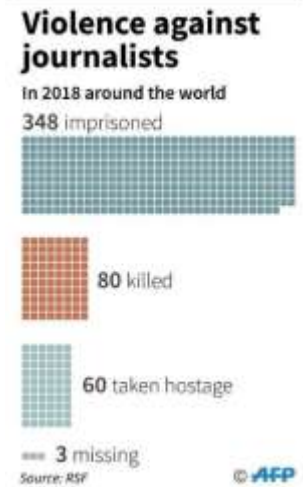
- ❖ The US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis has resigned from his post citing policy differences with the President Trump.
- ❖ The resignation comes after a day when the US President announced the pulling out of around 2000-member troops from Syria.

UN members adopt Global Compact on Refugees

- ❖ The UN member states voted in favour of the Global Compact on Refugees, affirming international solidarity and cooperation for refugee protection.
- ❖ The Global Compact on refugees received 181 votes in favour in the 193-member assembly.
- ❖ The United States and Hungary were the only two nations that voted against the Global Compact on Refugees.
- ❖ The Dominican Republic, Eritrea, and Libya abstained from the vote.

Violence on Journalists - RSF Report

- ❖ The report of annual worldwide round-up of deadly violence and abusive treatment of journalists was released by Reporters without Borders (RSF - Reporters Sans Frontières).
- ❖ According to the report, Journalists have never before been subjected to as much violence and abusive treatment as in 2018.
- ❖ The figure increased by eight percent to 80, and by 15 percent, in the category of number of professional journalists killed, from 55 in 2017 to 63 in 2018.
- ❖ The numbers had been declining for the previous 3 years.
- ❖ It added the U.S. to the worst offenders list for the first time in the annual roundup's 23-year history.
- ❖ China remains to be the world's biggest jailer of journalists with the number as high as 60. India was the 5th deadliest place for journalists.
- ❖ This report is being compiled every year since 1995.
- ❖ Earlier in April, RSF released the World Press Freedom Index 2018 in which India was ranked at 138.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

India's IDRSS to be satellite communication hub in sky

- ❖ India will launch the IDRSS to improve data relay and communication links with its remote sensing/earth observation satellites.
- ❖ Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS) will be launched as part of its proposed manned space mission in 2022.
- ❖ The two-satellite IDRSS will maintain a continuous communication link with
 - India's remote sensing/earth observation satellites and
 - The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III).
- ❖ The two IDRSS satellites will be placed in geostationary orbit.
- ❖ IDRSS satellites can see about 80 % of the area where Indian remote sensing satellites are orbiting.
- ❖ The proposed system will also reduce the dependence on the ground stations in tracking satellites.

ENVIRONMENT

Silao Khaja gets GI tag

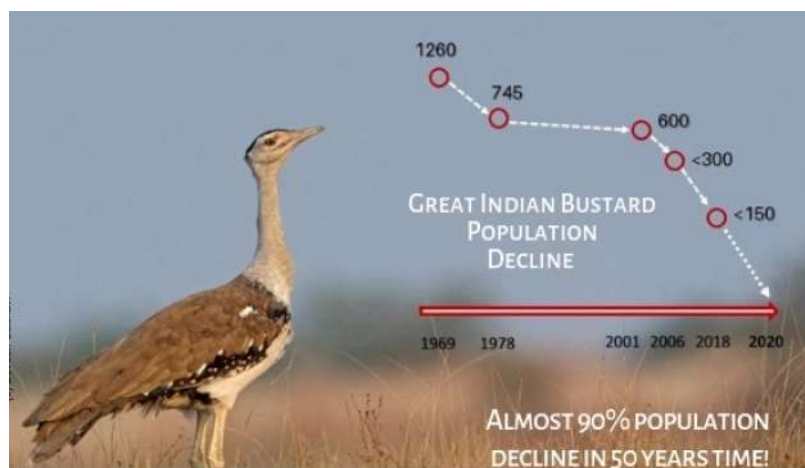
- ❖ The traditional delicacy of Nalanda district of Bihar, Silao Khaja was granted GI (Geographical Indication) tag by Geographical Indications Registry at Chennai.
- ❖ It is popular among the tourists visiting Buddhist sites of Rajgir and Nalanda.
- ❖ The application to obtain GI Tag was filed by Silao Khaja Audyogik Swavalambi Sahakari Samiti Limited, Bihar.



Emergency campaign launched to save the Great Indian Bustard

- ❖ The Wildlife organizations have got together to launch a campaign to save the Great Indian Bustard which in recent years has come under the critically endangered list.
- ❖ This campaign is much needed to save the bird from extinction as the total global population of the Great Indian Bustard reaching and all time low at < 150.
- ❖ Rajasthan is the last stronghold of the Great Indian Bustard.
- ❖ Fewer than 150 birds survive, out of which about 100 live in the Thar Desert.

- ❖ Gujarat has the next largest population of the bird – between 10 and 25 individuals.
- ❖ The wildlife organizations launched the campaign include the Corbett Foundation in collaboration with Conservation India and Sanctuary Nature Foundation.
- ❖ Many experts believe that these birds might be the first species to become extinct in Independent India.
- ❖ This grassland species is extinct from 95% of its range now.



STATES

Meghalaya Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS-IV)

- ❖ The CM of Meghalaya Conrad K Sangma launched the Meghalaya Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS-IV) in convergence with that of the Centre's Ayushman Bharat scheme.
- ❖ MHIS-IV covers all citizens in the state while the Ayushman Bharat (Centre's Scheme) targeted the bottom 40 percent of lower income families.

The National Balrang - 2018

- ❖ The National Balrang-2018 has started at the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS) in Bhopal to promote the artistic talent of the students.
- ❖ The 3-day cultural festival is being organised by the School Education Department of Madhya Pradesh in collaboration with the IGRMS.

- ❖ 'Balrang' is a unique programme that has been held in Bhopal since the past 23 years.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

New FICCI President & Vice President

- ❖ Sandip Somany has been elected as the new President of FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) for the year 2018-19
 - ❖ Sangita Reddy has been elevated as FICCI Senior Vice President.
 - ❖ While Uday Shankar, currently Chairman and CEO of Star India and President of 21st Century Fox Asia-Pacific (Only Asia), has joined the chamber as Vice President.
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