

**December – 24**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ C.R.I. pumps has won the prestigious ‘National Energy Conservation Award 2018’ in the pumps category for the fourth time.
- ❖ The ‘World Herbal Forest’ project of Patanjali has been inaugurated at Morni Hill in Haryana (near Chandigarh).

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Top 10 Performing Police Stations**

- ❖ The list of best 10 stations was released by the Union Home Minister at the DGP conference at Kevadiya in Gujarat.
- ❖ The Periyakulam police station in Theni has been adjudged among the top 10 performing police stations across the country.
- ❖ This police station is ranked 8th in the list.
- ❖ The rankings were based on the number of cases solved in the last year apart from the analysis of their efficiency and courtesy levels.

- 1-Kalu (Rajasthan)
- 2-Campbell Bay ( A&N Islands)
- 3-Farakka (West Bengal)
- 4- Nettapakkam (Puducherry)
- 5- Guderu (Karnataka)
- 6- Chopal (Himachal Pradesh)
- 7- Lakheri (Rajasthan)
- 8- Periyakulam (Tamil Nadu)
- 9- Munsyari (Uttarakhand)
- 10- Churchorem (Goa)

## NATIONAL

### Global SME Business Summit

- ❖ The 15th edition of Global SME (Small and medium-sized enterprises) Business Summit was held recently in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Theme was 'Building Partnerships through Global Value Chains'.
- ❖ The 2-day summit was organised by the Ministry of MSME (Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with Government e-marketplace.

### SDG India index 2018

- ❖ The NITI Aayog has recently released the Baseline Report of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index 2018.
- ❖ It documents the progress made by India's States and Union Territories (UTs) towards implementation of the 2030 SDG targets.
- ❖ According to the Index,
  - Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu have been ranked on top 3 positions and are on track to achieve the UN SDG.
  - Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are at the bottom of the rankings.
- ❖ It was developed in collaboration with the
  - Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI),
  - Global Green Growth Institute and
  - United Nations in India
- ❖ An index score of 100 signifies that the state had achieved the 2030 national targets. The SDGs came into effect from September 2015.

## Quality Of Life

- NITI Aayog has developed the SDG India Index
- States and UTs are ranked based on their performance on **62 parameters**
- While there are no states with **100 score** or achievers, HP, Kerala and TN are frontrunners
- Goa, Gujarat and Karnataka are top performers in the index
- Assam, Bihar and UP are aspirants with score less than **49**

### WHY THE INDEX IS NEEDED

- **Support states/UTs** to benchmark their progress
- **Help states/UTs** identify priority areas
- **Highlight data** gaps related across SDGs

### ITS LIMITATIONS

- **Four goals** have been excluded out of 17 goals due to lack of data
- **Indicators emerging** from the state schemes not included



### **Logistics Development Committee**

- ❖ The Government has constituted a Logistics Development Committee under Dr Bibek Debroy, Chairman, EAC-PM.
- ❖ It was constituted by the EAC-PM (Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister).
- ❖ The committee would be working on challenges in the logistics development and suggest policy reforms for the ease of doing trade in the country.

### **Best performing states under PMMVY**

- ❖ The Ministry of Women and Child Development Ministry released the performance of states & UTs under the maternity benefit programme named Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh topped the charts as the best performing states.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **New Political capital of Burundi**

- ❖ The government of Burundi has declared Gitega as the country's new political capital.
- ❖ Bujumbura, the previous capital of Burundi, will serve as the economic capital of the country.
- ❖ About 85% of the population of Burundi is of Hutu ethnicity, 15% are of Tutsi origin and less than 1% are Twa.
- ❖ Burundi was ranked as the world's least happy nation in the World Happiness Report 2018.

### **South Korean grain silo - Guinness World Records**

- ❖ A dreary grain silo that was transformed into an enormous colourful artwork in South Korea has been named by the Guinness World Records as the largest outdoor mural in the world.
- ❖ The painting depicts a young boy's journey into adulthood covers the outside of giant storage containers in the port city of Incheon takes up 23,688 square meters.
- ❖ The mural was commissioned by the city's government and port authority. It aims at improving the negative view of aged industrial facilities.



## **ECONOMY**

### **Indian Stock market overtakes Germany**

- ❖ India overtakes Germany as the World's 7th largest Stock market for the first time in the last seven years.
- ❖ After the exit of United Kingdom from the European Union, now the European Union has only 'France' in the top seven economies of the world.

## GST rate slashed on 23 items

- ❖ The tax rates on 23 goods and services has been reduced by the GST Council which includes movie tickets, TV and monitor screens and others.
- ❖ The new GST rates will be applicable from 1st of January 2019.

<b>COMPLETE LIST OF GST RATE CUTS</b>		
<p><b>28% to 18%</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pulleys, transmission shafts and cranks, gear boxes etc., falling under HS Code 8483</li> <li>➤ Monitors and TVs of up to screen size of 32 inches</li> <li>➤ Re-treaded or used pneumatic tyres of rubber</li> <li>➤ Power banks of lithium-ion batteries. Lithium-ion batteries are already at 18%. This will bring parity in GST rate of power bank and lithium-ion battery</li> <li>➤ Digital cameras and video</li> </ul>	<p>camera recorders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Video game consoles and other games and sports requisites falling under HS code 9504</li> </ul> <p><b>28% to 5%</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Parts and accessories for the carriages for disabled people</li> </ul> <p><b>18% to 12%</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Cork roughly squared or debagged</li> <li>➤ Articles of natural cork</li> <li>➤ Agglomerated cork</li> </ul> <p><b>12% to 5%</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Natural cork</li> <li>➤ Walking stick</li> <li>➤ Fly ash blocks</li> </ul>	<p><b>5% to Nil</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Vegetables (uncooked or cooked by steaming or boiling), frozen, branded and put in a unit container</li> <li>➤ Vegetable provisionally preserved (for example by sulphur dioxide gas, in brine, in sulphur water or in other preservative solutions), but unsuitable in that state for quick consumption</li> </ul> <p><b>GST on solar power generating plant and other renewable energy plants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ GST rate of 5% rate has been prescribed on renewable energy devices &amp; parts for their manufacture (bio gas plant/solar power based devices, solar power generating system (SGPS) etc) [falling under chapter 84, 85 or 94 of the tariff]. Other goods or services used in these plants attract applicable GST</li> </ul>
<b>REDUCTION IN GST RATES/EXEMPTIONS ON SERVICES</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ GST rate on cinema tickets above ₹100 shall be reduced from <b>28% to 18%</b> and on cinema tickets up to ₹100 from <b>18% to 12%</b></li> <li>➤ GST rate on third-party insurance premium of goods carrying vehicles shall be</li> </ul>	<p>reduced from <b>18% to 12%</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Services supplied by banks to Basic Saving Bank Deposit (BSBD) account holders under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) shall be exempted</li> <li>➤ Air travel of pilgrims</li> </ul>	<p>by non-scheduled/charter operations, for religious pilgrimage facilitated by the Government of India under bilateral arrangements shall attract the same rate of GST as applicable to similar flights in economy class (<b>i.e. 5%</b>)</p>

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### First satellite for space-based broadband

- ❖ China has launched its first communication satellite to offer broadband internet services to the users worldwide.
- ❖ The communication satellite was launched using a Long March 11 carrier rocket which took off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in north-western China.
- ❖ The satellite is the first in the Hongyun project planned by the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp (CASIC).
- ❖ The Hongyun project, started in September 2016, which aims to build a space-based communications network.
- ❖ It seeks to provide broadband internet connectivity to users around the world, especially those in the underserved regions.



### SEIS placed on Mars - NASA

- ❖ NASA's 'Insight' has placed its first instrument, a seismometer (SEIS) on the Planet Mars.
- ❖ The seismometer, world's first ever instrument placed on another planet's surface, will listen for quakes and wobbles in the Red planet.



## ENVIRONMENT

### **Dermophis donaldtrumpi**

- ❖ A newly discovered blind amphibian has been named after the US President Trump in recognition of the president's denial of climate change.



- ❖ EnviroBuild, a U.K. based sustainable building materials company has announced that it would be naming the amphibian as 'Dermophis donaldtrumpi'.

- ❖ The new creature has no legs, blind and has the ability to bury its head in the ground.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Tamil writer Prapanchan passed away

- ❖ Tamil writer Prapanchan, born S. Vaithilingam, died at a private hospital in the Union Territory after battling cancer.
- ❖ Prapanchan's first collection of short stories in Tamil was released in 1961.
- ❖ His first short story, 'Enna Ulagamada' was published in 'Barani', a Tamil magazine in 1961.
- ❖ He won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1995 for his novel Vanam Vasappadum (Beyond the Sky).
- ❖ He had written 'Vaanam Vasapadum' in the Tamil magazine 'Dinamani Kadhir' in 1993.
- ❖ Some of his acclaimed novels include Mahanadhi, Manudam vellum, Sandhya, Kagidha Manidhargal, Kaneeral Kappom, Penmai velga, Padhavi and Erodu Thamizhar uyirodu.



## SPORTS

### FIFA global rankings

- ❖ Belgium Football team came at number one position in the end-of-the-year FIFA global rankings.
- ❖ It managed to stay at the top with one point more than the current World Champions France.

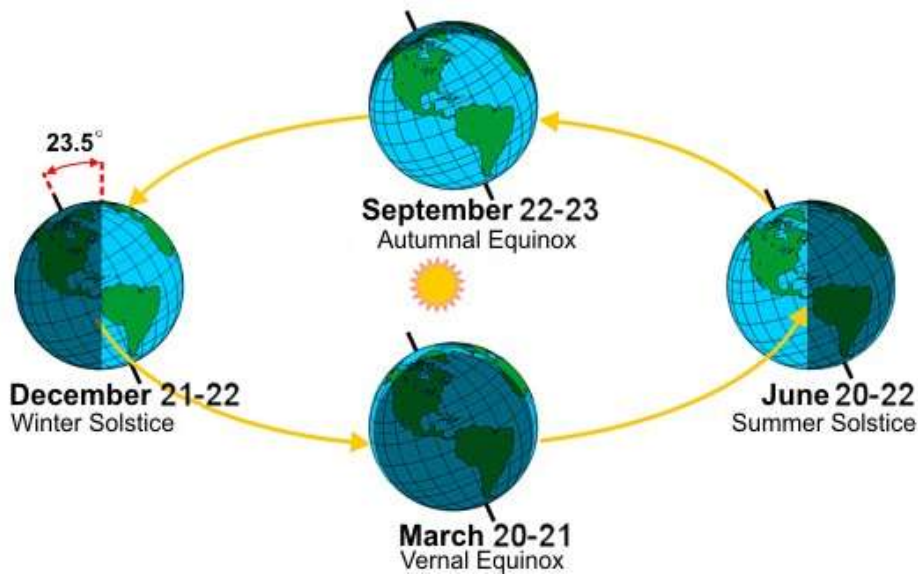


- ❖ Brazil came at third place followed by Croatia and England.
- ❖ France has been adjudged as the 2018's Best Mover team by FIFA.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Winter Solstice & Summer Solstice – December 21

- ❖ The days of the year with the most and fewest daylight hours are called the solstices.
- ❖ Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year was observed in the Northern hemisphere.
- ❖ Whereas Summer Solstice, the Longest Day of the year was observed in the Southern Hemisphere.
- ❖ The roles are reversed on June 21st when the Northern Hemisphere observes Summer Solstice and Southern Hemisphere observes winter solstice.
- ❖ They are caused due to the tilt of the Earth and its elliptical path around the sun.

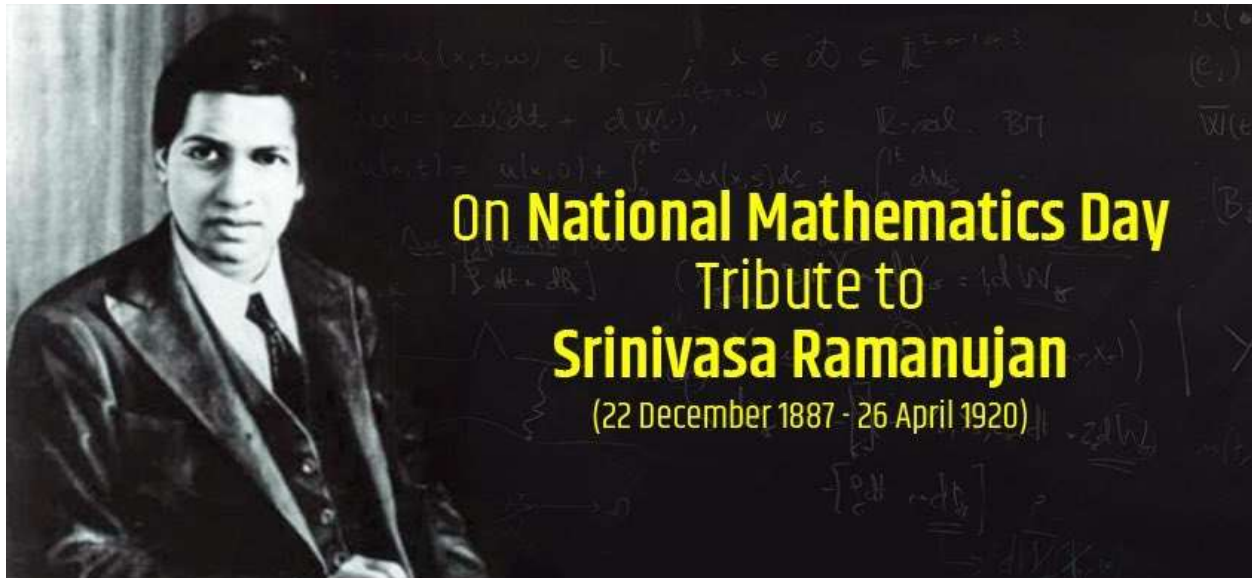


### National Mathematics Day - 22 December

- ❖ The National Mathematics Day is celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> December every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of famous Indian Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- ❖ This year (2018) India celebrated the 131st birth anniversary of Ramanujan.



- ❖ It has been celebrated since 2012 to mark the 125<sup>th</sup> Birth anniversary. The Indian government had also declared 2012 as the National Mathematics year.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to honour his contribution to the field of Mathematics and also to keep his legacy alive to inspire the future mathematicians.



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