

December – 25

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Integral coach factory (ICF), Chennai rolls out the country's first ever Self-propelled Inspection Car (SPIC), which means that it is powered by diesel-electric power pack.
 - Usually a separate locomotive is employed for carrying out inspection works, which is expensive and time-consuming.
- ❖ Sadaiv Atal, the Samadhi of Atal Bihari Vajpayee was dedicated to the Nation on the birth Anniversary (December 25) of the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ❖ The 55th anniversary of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) was celebrated on December 24th at its 25th Battalion, Ghitorni, in New Delhi.
- ❖ The wrestler Bala Rafique Shaikh achieved the Maharashtra Kesari 2018 title by defeating Abhijeet Katke of Pune in the 62nd Maharashtra Kesari Wrestling Championship held at Azad ground, Jalna, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The US President Donald Trump announced that deputy secretary of defence Patrick Shanahan will take charge as Acting Secretary of Defence from January 1, 2019.
- ❖ The Ministry of Personnel appointed P V Bharathi as the MD and CEO of Corporation Bank, effective from February 1, 2019 till March 31, 2020 – the date of her superannuation.
- ❖ The RBI has mandated a three-year cooling-off period for its top retired officials before they can take over as chairman or chief executive of any other entity.
 - To join as a director of any company's board, the one-year cooling period mandate continues.
- ❖ The first meeting of the Follow-up Committee for implementation of the Trilateral Chabahar Agreement between India, Afghanistan and Iran was held in the port city of Chabahar in Iran.
- ❖ The Indian Navy commissioned its 10th Naval Hospital Ship named 'INHS Sandhani' at the Naval station Karanja in Uran near Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting organized an India-China Film festival during the first India-China High Level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges in New Delhi.

- ❖ The Indian Railways won 17 awards in the National Energy Conservation awards 2018 held in New Delhi.
 - This was the highest number of awards bagged by a single organisation.

NATIONAL

SKOCH Summit & awards

- ❖ The 55th SKOCH Summit was held recently in Constitution Club of India, New Delhi.
- ❖ It was hosted by SKOCH group, the think tank for socio-economic issues with focus on inclusive growth.
- ❖ A book titled India 2030 was also released on the occasion.
- ❖ West Bengal won 31 SKOCH awards for its performance in different fields.

Category	Awardee
SKOCH Chief Minister of the Year Award	West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee
SKOCH Governance Person of the Year	K T Rama Rao
SKOCH Award for hydel project in Purulia	West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL)
SKOCH Golden Jubilee Challenger Award	Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu
SKOCH IT minister of the Year	Nara Lokesh
SKOCH Sprinter of the Year	Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu

Bogibeel Bridge inaugurated

- ❖ The PM of India inaugurated the Bogibeel Bridge on the birth anniversary of the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee i.e. December 25 which is observed as “Good Governance Day”.
- ❖ This 4.9 km bridge, built by Indian Railways, has become the India’s longest and Asia’s 2nd longest railroad bridge in Assam.
- ❖ Till now Vembanad rail bridge in Kerala was dubbed as the longest railway-bridge in India at 4.62km of length.

- ❖ It is the nation's only fully welded bridge and for the first time European codes and welding standards were adhered to and it has a life of about 120 years.
- ❖ It is a double-decker bridge having two railway lines on the lower deck and a three-lane road on the upper.
- ❖ It connects the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River in Assam's Dibrugarh district with Silapathar in Dhemaji district, bordering Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The three road lanes of the bridge can act as three landing strips for the Air Force.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SpaceX's first US military satellite launched

- ❖ SpaceX launched the U.S. Air Force's newest 'GPS III' satellite on a Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, USA.
- ❖ This GPS 3 satellite replaces an aging GPS 2R spacecraft launched in 1997.
- ❖ The solar-powered spacecraft, dubbed "Vespucci," is the company's first official "National Security Space" mission.
- ❖ It will provide three-times better accuracy than current systems and will be eight-times better at anti-jamming.
- ❖ Nicknamed Vespucci, it honours Italian cartographer and explorer Amerigo Vespucci, after whom North and South America were named.

- ❖ It was completed through the Air Force's Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle program.
- ❖ The successful GPS III SV01 mission marked SpaceX's 21st and final launch of 2018.



STATES

Yuva Natya Samaroh

- ❖ The sixth edition of five-day long Yuva Natya Samaroh was held at Kamani Auditorium in New Delhi.
- ❖ It was organised by Sahitya Kala Parishad, Department of Art, Culture and Languages, Government of Delhi.
- ❖ It is a theatre festival of five young directors with some of the best modern, mythological as well as Parsi style drama.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Drivers' Driver of the Year

- ❖ Lewis Hamilton was awarded with Drivers' Driver of the Year after claiming the 5th World Drivers' Championship.
- ❖ After this he became the 3rd man in history to secure the 5th world title.

- ❖ He was followed by Max Verstappen in the second place, Fernando Alonso in the third place.



SPORTS

First woman to reach 50 World Cup wins - ski races

- ❖ American Mikaela Shiffrin became the youngest woman to win 50 World Cup ski races with victory in the slalom in the French Alps.
- ❖ She finished 0.29 seconds ahead of Slovakia's Petra Vlhova and 0.37 seconds ahead of Sweden Frida Hansdotter to win in Courchevel victory.

India Squash Championship

- ❖ The National champion Mahesh Mangaonkar of Maharashtra and Yash Fadte of Goa clinched the men's and under 19 boys' titles respectively in the CCI Western India Squash Championship.
- ❖ The championship was organized by Squash Rackets Federation of India in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Club World Cup

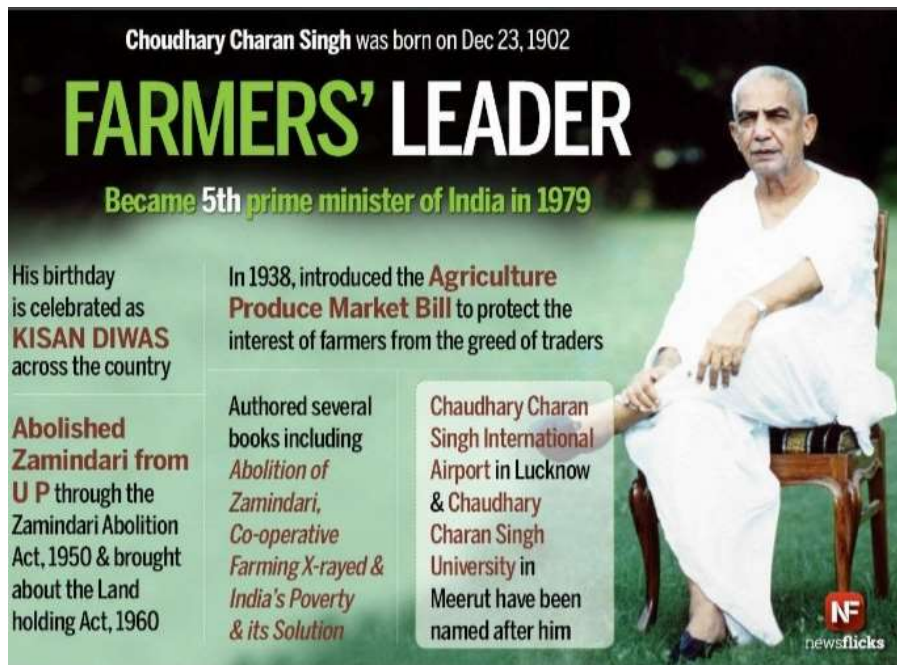
- ❖ The European Champion, Real Madrid won 3rd straight FIFA Club World Cup with the win over home team Al-Ain in the final held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

- ❖ Real Madrid have now four FIFA club World Cup titles, one title more than Barcelona.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National farmers' day - 23rd December

- ❖ The National Farmer's Day was celebrated throughout the country to mark the birth anniversary of Indian farmer's leader and 5th PM of India Chaudhary Charan Singh.
- ❖ The day aims to acknowledge the role of farmers in India's socio-economic development.
- ❖ This day, which is also observed as Kisan Diwas, is celebrated across the nation every year with the focus on the upliftment of the status of farmers.



Choudhary Charan Singh was born on Dec 23, 1902

FARMERS' LEADER

Became 5th prime minister of India in 1979


His birthday is celebrated as **KISAN DIWAS** across the country

In 1938, introduced the **Agriculture Produce Market Bill** to protect the interest of farmers from the greed of traders

Abolished **Zamindari from UP** through the Zamindari Abolition Act, 1950 & brought about the Land holding Act, 1960

Authored several books including *Abolition of Zamindari*, *Co-operative Farming X-rayed & India's Poverty & its Solution*

Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport in Lucknow & Chaudhary Charan Singh University in Meerut have been named after him



National Consumers Day - 24 December

- ❖ The National Consumer Day is celebrated across the country on 24th December every year.

- ❖ The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution celebrated National Consumer Day 2018 at DRDO Bhawan in New Delhi.
- ❖ The theme of the 2018 National Consumers Day was “Timely Disposal of Consumer Complaints”.
- ❖ It is being celebrated on the 24th December because it was on this day in 1986 the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 had received the assent of the President.



Good Governance Day – 25 December

- ❖ The Good Governance Day was celebrated across the country on 25th December to commemorate the birth anniversary of Former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ❖ The day was established in 2014 to honour Vajpayee by fostering awareness among the people on accountability in Governance and Government.
- ❖ The Prime Minister released a commemorative 100 rupees coin in memory of the former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.