

December – 26

- ❖ The PM of India announced setting up of a Chair on the Paika Rebellion, in Utkal University, Bhubaneswar. He also released a commemorative stamp and coin on the Paika Rebellion.
 - The Paika Rebellion of 1817 in Odisha briefly shook the foundations of British rule in the eastern part of India.
- ❖ India successfully test fired its nuclear capable long-range ballistic missile Agni-IV with a strike range of 4,000 km off Odisha coast. This was the 7th trial of Agni-IV missile.
- ❖ The former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh received the South Indian Education Society's (SIES) Sri Chandra Sekharendra Saraswati National Eminence Award as part of the Kanchi Mahaswami festival.
 - He was awarded for his contributions to the field of public leadership.
- ❖ 'Nightingale of Assam' singer Dipali Borthakur passed away at 77 on December 21, 2018. She was a Padma Shri recipient in 1998 and was also known as "Asomiya Lata Mangeskar".
- ❖ The Maharashtra CM has launched the 'Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Schools' for students in rural areas on the occasion of 94th birth anniversary of the late prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
 - The schools are affiliated to the Maharashtra International Education Board (MIEB).

TAMIL NADU

- ❖ December 25, 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the Keezhavenmani massacre.
- ❖ Keezhvenmani is a village in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ On December 25, 1968, 44 Dalits were locked in a hut in the village, which was then set fire to.
- ❖ Keezhvenmani was independent India's first well-chronicled massacre of Dalits.
- ❖ It signifies the suppression of a landless community raising its voice to seek something as basic as decent wages.
- ❖ Dalits raised their nascent voice under the banner of the communist movement in the unified Thanjavur district.



NATIONAL

'Misperception Index'

- ❖ According to the MORI Perils of Perception Survey 2018, done by an independent market research company 'Ipsos India', Indians stood at 12th rank in the "misperception index".
- ❖ India stood behind several countries like, Italy, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, Chile and Argentina, among others.
- ❖ The countries which performed poorer than India were Thailand, Mexico, Turkey, Malaysia, and Brazil.

Prime Minister Shram Awards 2017

- ❖ The Union Government has announced to confer the Prime Minister's Shram Awards 2017 to 40 workers across country.
- ❖ These awardees have been selected among the workers of Departmental Undertakings & Central and State Government PSUs and Private Sector companies having 500 or more workers.
- ❖ This year, no one was awarded the prestigious Shram Ratna Award.

ECONOMY

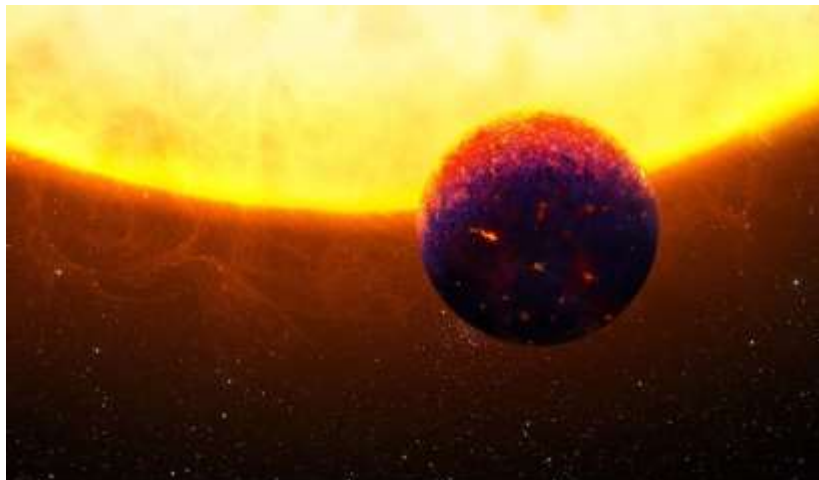
Sangeeta Verma appointed as 3rd CCI Member

- ❖ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) announced the appointment of Ex-IES Sangeeta Verma as its member in its 4-member council including the chairperson.
- ❖ The other members of the council include:
 - Chairperson - Ashok Kumar Gupta,
 - 2 other members - Augustine Peter and UC Nahta
- ❖ The Commission was established in 2003 to replace the erstwhile Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

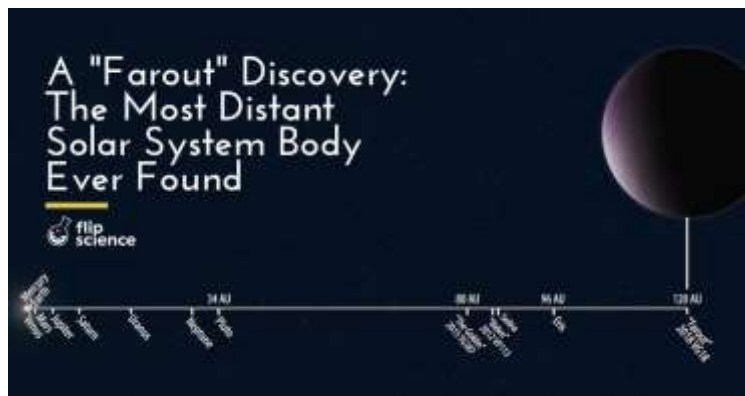
Shimmering 'Super-Earth' In Constellation Cassiopeia Discovered

- ❖ Researchers have discovered a new exotic planet outside our solar system in the constellation Cassiopeia.
- ❖ Located 21 light years away from us, this planet, dubbed HD219134 b, has a mass almost 5 times that of Earth, which is considered a so-called "super-Earth".
- ❖ Unlike the Earth, however, it most likely does not have a massive core of iron, but is rich in calcium and aluminium alongside magnesium and silicon.
- ❖ It shimmers red to blue like rubies and sapphires, because these gemstones are aluminium oxides which are common on the exoplanet.



Most-distant solar system object ever discovered - Farout

- ❖ Scientists have discovered the most-distant object ever observed in our solar system known as 2018 VG18 and nicknamed “Farout”.
- ❖ It is the first to be observed at a distance of more than 100 AU (astronomical units) which almost 120AU or 11 billion miles from the sun.
- ❖ 1 AU is the distance between the Earth and the Sun.
- ❖ They had discovered another extremely distant object known as “The Goblin”, about 80 AU from the sun.
- ❖ The second most distant observed solar system object is Eris about 96 AU from the sun.
- ❖ Pluto, a dwarf planet is currently at about 34 AU.



ENVIRONMENT

Indonesia hit by Volcanic Tsunami

- ❖ A tsunami following a volcanic eruption hits the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra islands of Indonesia without any early warning.
- ❖ It caused heavy damage to the holiday makers and residents of coastal areas.
- ❖ The tsunami was caused by an underwater landslide when a chunk of the volcanic Anak Krakatau island slipped into the ocean.
- ❖ The tsunami was triggered by a volcano rather than earthquake due to which early warning could not be generated.



Italy's Mount Etna Volcano erupts

- ❖ Italy's Mount Etna volcano erupted recently resulting in more than 130 earthquakes of up to 4.3 in magnitude.
- ❖ The volcanic lava and ash spewed from a new fracture near its south-eastern crater for the first time in a decade and was visible for miles.
- ❖ Mount Etna is Europe's highest and most active volcano outside the Caucasus.
- ❖ Mount Etna has been designated a Decade Volcano by the United Nations.
- ❖ In June 2013, it was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Fastest Asian to cycle the globe

- ❖ Pune woman Vedangi Kulkarni, 20, became the fastest Asian to cycle the globe.
- ❖ She spent 159 days peddling up to 300 km a day in 14 countries.
- ❖ She started off from Perth in July and will be flying back to the Australian city to complete the record.
- ❖ British adventurer Jenny Graham, 38, is the fastest woman to have cycled the globe in 124 days in 2018.

Archery Association of India

- ❖ B V P Rao was elected as the President of Archery Association of India (AAI).
- ❖ The election was held under the Supervision of former Chief Election Commissioner S. Y. Quraishi.
- ❖ Maha Singh was elected as secretary of Archery Association of India, D K Vidyarthi was elected as the treasurer.
- ❖ Sunil Sharma was elected senior vice-president and Rajendra Singh Tomar and Purnima Mahato will be the vice presidents.

SPORTS

Senior National Rowing Championship

- ❖ 37th Senior National Rowing Championship concluded at Army Rowing Node, College of Military Engineering in Pune.
- ❖ The Army Team emerged as the champions in 2018 and was followed by the Services team that came in second.
- ❖ The mixed event was introduced for the first time in the National Championship.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Siddha Day – 26 December

- ❖ Every year Sage Agathiar's birthday is being observed as Siddha Day and this year it falls on 26 December, 2018.
- ❖ Sage Agathiyar is considered as the first Siddhar in the line of "18 Siddhars" and called as "Father of Siddha Medicine"
- ❖ Agathiyar was born in the month of Markazhi in Aayilyam birth star.
- ❖ The day has been observed since last year, 2017.