

December – 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The President has appointed Justice Chagari Praveen Kumar as the new acting Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court that will come into existence on January 1, 2019.
- ❖ The Prime Minister of India has announced a Rs. 4,500 crore financial assistance to Bhutan for its 12th five-year plan.
- ❖ China has successfully tested Russia's S-400 missile air defence system. China was the first foreign buyer to seal a government-to-government deal with Russia in 2014 to procure the S-400 missile.
- ❖ Ambika Prasad Panda has been given the opportunity of discharging the duties of Chairman and Managing Director of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL).
- ❖ Andry Rajoelina, a former leader of Madagascar has won the country's presidential vote by defeating Marc Ravalomanana, who was also a former President of the country.
- ❖ Former President of USA, Barack Obama has been named as the most admired man by the Americans for the 11th year in a row according to a Gallup poll. The Present President of USA, Donald Trumps ranked at 2nd for the 4th consecutive year.
 - The Former First Lady of USA Michelle Obama was also voted as the most admired women by the Americans.
- ❖ According to data from Dealogic, India has been getting more foreign investment than its neighbour China for the first time in two decades.
- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has amended the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 to mandate fitting of high security registration plates (HSRP) for all vehicles from April 1, 2019.
- ❖ The government has banned Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for its involvement in terror activities during its violent campaign for the secession of Punjab.
 - KLF will be the 40th organisation to be proscribed under the UAPA law.
- ❖ Actor and theatre artiste Cheenu Mohan passed away recently in Chennai. He was a trouper since the inception of the theatre group Crazy creations in 1979.

TAMIL NADU

Vishnupuram award

- ❖ The Novelist and researcher in Tamil literature Raj Gouthaman received the Vishunpuram Award for the year of 2018 in Coimbatore.
- ❖ Since 2010, Vishnupuram Award is bestowed every year on senior Tamil writers.
- ❖ Coimbatore-based Vishnupuram Ilakkiya Vattam awards a trophy and a cash prize of Rs1 lakh to the recipient.

Lokayukta search panel

- ❖ The Retired Madras High Court Judge K. Venkataraman has been appointed to head the 3-member Lokayukta Search Committee.
- ❖ The search committee, which was constituted by the Lokayukta Selection Committee, was chaired by the Chief Minister.
- ❖ The search committee has been tasked with submitting names of candidates to the selection committee for appointment as chairperson and members of the Lokayukta.
- ❖ It also named former Advocate General R. Krishnamoorthy and retired IPS officer A. Pari as the other members of the search committee.

Tamil Nadu Scientist Award

- ❖ 29 scientists were felicitated with the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA), for making valuable contributions to the field of science and technology.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology, hosts the event every year to mark the contributions of scientists from across the State.

Meghdoot Awards 2018

- ❖ The Minister of State for Communications (I/C) and Railways, Manoj Sinha presented the Meghdoot Awards for the year 2018, at a function, in New Delhi.
- ❖ Two persons from Tamil Nadu has been selected for this award.
 - Ms Srividya Iyer - Best Woman Employee
 - K.Ganapathy - Best Post Man

- ❖ The scheme of National awards known as Meghdoot Awards was instituted in the year 1984 to provide encouragement to the postal employees by recognizing performance of high standard.



NATIONAL

Indian Social Science Congress

- ❖ The 5-day long 42nd Indian Social Science Congress at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.



- ❖ The theme of the conference is “Human Future in Digital Era.”
- ❖ Its objective is to promote research in science and social sciences to reach the grassroot level.
- ❖ The event was organised by KIIT and Indian Social Science Academy (ISSA).

INTERNATIONAL

Nepal - expenditures limit of its citizens

- ❖ Nepal has imposed a monthly limit on the amount of Indian currency to its citizen who will spend in India while paying for goods and services.
- ❖ The decision was taken to deal with the growing problem of current account deficit and the balance of payment crisis between India and Nepal.

Currency conundrum



Nov. 8, 2016: India announces demonetisation of ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes	modalities of exchanging old notes fail
Nov. 24, 2016: Nepal Rastra Bank bans new Indian ₹500 and ₹2,000 notes	Dec. 14, 2018: Nepal Cabinet notifies ban of Indian currency, including ₹200
Jan. 12, 2017: Indo-Nepal talks on	Dec. 25, 2018: Nepal caps individual citizen spending in India at ₹1 lakh per month

- ❖ With the approval of new restrictions, a Nepali citizen would be unable to spend more than Rs1 lakh per month while paying for goods and services in India.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

New hypersonic nuclear missile Test

- ❖ Russia has successfully tested the new hypersonic nuclear-capable weapon.
- ❖ The weapon, named “Avangard”, had been launched from the Orenburg region in the European Russian part.



- ❖ It has the ability to fly at 20 times the speed of sound and could manoeuvre up and down, and also it could breach defence systems.
- ❖ It is designed using new composite materials to withstand temperatures of up to 2,000 degrees Celsius.

STATES

Appointments for out-of-state representatives

- ❖ The Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB) has appointed 6 officers as its representatives outside the state to facilitate trade in semi-perishable commodities.
- ❖ With this move, the MSAMB will become the first marketing board to appoint out-of-state representatives.
- ❖ These trade representatives will not only collect relevant market information but also facilitate trade across states.

Anti-mob violence bill - Manipur

- ❖ The Manipur Assembly has unanimously passed the 'Manipur Protection from Mob Violence Bill of 2018'.
- ❖ The bill recommends a rigorous life imprisonment for those involved in mob violence, if it results in the death of a person.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Balkan athlete of the year award

- ❖ Croatia's captain and Spanish club Real Madrid's midfielder Luka Modric was named the Balkan Athlete of the year beating Men's tennis world number 1 player Novak Djokovic.
- ❖ Serbian player Novak Djokovic got 2nd position whereas women's number one tennis Romania's Simona Halep got third position in the Balkan's poll.



BALKAN ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

- 1 LUKA MODRIC**
- 2 NOVAK DJOKOVIC**
- 3 SIMONA HALEP**



SPORTS

David's 16-year-old Test record break

- ❖ The Indian Cricket team Captain, Virat Kohli surpassed former India's Captain Rahul Dravid's 16 years record of highest runs in overseas Tests.
- ❖ He achieved this after playing a knock of 82 runs on the second day of 3rd Test against Australia.
- ❖ Rahul Dravid had scored 1137 runs in Overseas Tests in 2002 which was broken by Virat Kohli who had scored 1138 runs in 2018.

MISCELLANEOUS

Solo journey across Antarctica - First Person

- ❖ American adventurer Colin O' Brady became the first person to complete a solo journey across Antarctica, unaided and unsupported.
- ❖ He took 54 days to complete the nearly 1,000 miles (1,600-kilometer) crossing of the frozen continent from north to south.


