

December – 30

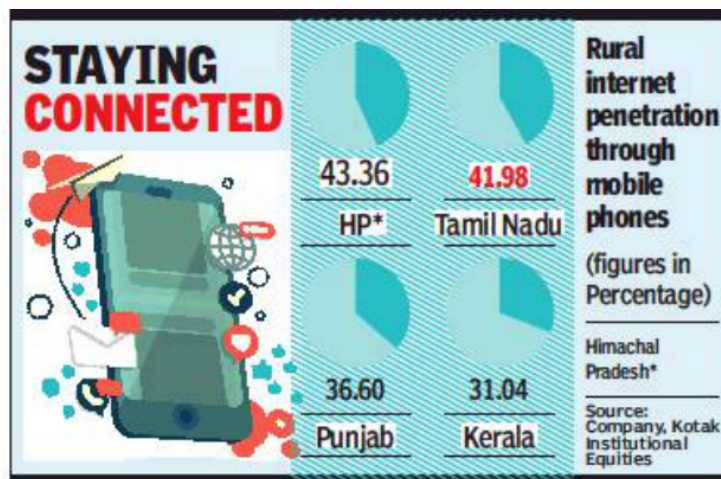
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Prime Minister has recently released a commemorative stamp on Rajbhar community icon Maharaja Suheldev at Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has released a booklet titled “A Handbook for Students on cyber Safety” to inform the school children about the different aspects of cyber safety.
- ❖ Tennis Australia announced that a new “Heat Stress Scale” has been developed which takes into account air temperature, radiant heat, humidity and wind speed.
 - It will be used during the upcoming Australian Open at Melbourne, Australia.
- ❖ The IFS officer Rahul Chhabra, presently the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Kenya, has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Federal Republic of Somalia, with residence in Nairobi.
- ❖ Mr. Y.K. Sailas Thangal, who is the ambassador of the India to the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire, has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Liberia with residence in Abidjan.
- ❖ The President of India has recently inaugurated the 12th Global Healthcare Summit in Mumbai. It was organized by the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin.
- ❖ A single-member Hooda panel, set up by the Defence Ministry and the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) has recommended creation of new specialised units for information warfare in areas where the counter-insurgency operations are being conducted.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has launched a coffee table book about the Chairman of India Cements, Mr. N Srinivasan titled “Defying the Paradigm N Srinivasan: Fifty years of an extraordinary journey”.
 - The coffee table book was authored by Kalyani Candade and its first copy was received by cricketer MS Dhoni.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved Rs 10,000 crore budget for the proposed human spaceflight mission (Gaganyaan), which envisages to send astronauts to space by 2022.

TAMIL NADU

Rural smartphone use

- ❖ The Union communication ministry has recently presented the report in the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ As per the data, Tamil Nadu is ranked at 2nd in the entire country in smartphone connectivity in rural areas.



- ❖ The maximum number of smartphones with net connection in rural areas is in Himachal Pradesh.

Chapparam (Chariot) festival

- ❖ The unique Chapparam (Chariot) festival was celebrated with traditional rituals and festivities in the famous Madurai Meenakshi temple, in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The festival symbolizes the importance of preserving all kinds of food and fodder.
- ❖ Another specialty of the festival is that the chariot of Goddess Meenakshi is pulled by lady devotees alone.



NATIONAL

Countrywide survey for sub-categorization of OBC

- ❖ A commission examining the sub-categorisation of the central list of OBCs (Other Backward Classes) has decided to conduct a countrywide survey to estimate the caste-wise population figures.
- ❖ Justice G Rohini (retired), who is heading the 5-member panel, set up to suggest parameters for an equitable distribution of OBC reservation.

India submits Sixth National Report to CBD

- ❖ India has recently submitted its Sixth National Report (NR6) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- ❖ It has been submitted at the inaugural session of the 13th National Meeting of the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) in New Delhi.
- ❖ India is among the first 5 countries in the world, the 1st in Asia and the 1st among the bio-diversity rich megadiverse countries to have submitted NR6 to the CBD Secretariat.
- ❖ The NR6 provides an update of progress in achievement of 12 National Biodiversity Targets (NBT) developed under the Convention process in line with the 20 global Aichi biodiversity targets.

Some of the achievements

- ❖ In India only 0.08% of the species recorded are in the category of 'Endangered Species'.
- ❖ India has nearly 2/3rd of the population of wild tigers in the world.
- ❖ One-horned Indian Rhino which was on the brink of extinction earlier, now numbers 2400.

INTERNATIONAL

6 Yunhai - 2 satellites & a test communication satellite launched

- ❖ China successfully sent six Yunhai-2 atmospheric environment research satellites and a test communication satellite of Hongyan constellation into orbit.
- ❖ The six Yunhai-2 satellites will study atmospheric environment, monitor space environment, prevent and reduce disasters and conduct scientific experiments.

- ❖ The test satellite will be used to verify the function of mobile communications in low earth orbit (LEO).
- ❖ The test satellite was developed by Aerospace Dongfanghong Development Ltd. Shenzhen, a company under the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST).

ECONOMY

Arunachal touches record high revenue generation

- ❖ The Arunachal Pradesh government has created a record of a total revenue generation of Rs 1,598.49 crore in 2017-18, reaching a new high in the last 30 years.
- ❖ The revenue generation had crossed the Rs 1,000 crore mark for the 2 consecutive years since Arunachal Pradesh attained statehood in 1987.

ENVIRONMENT

Swachh Survekshan 2018 award - Best Capital City

- ❖ Swachh Survekshan 2018 award for Best Capital City in the Solid Waste Management was conferred to Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).
- ❖ It was also ranked at 27th in the list of 4041 cities in the Swachh Surveksahan Rankings.
- ❖ This edition of the survey was conducted by a third-party agency, Karvy Group appointed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

STATES

10 Ashok Chakra recipients honoured with postage stamps

- ❖ The Keonjhar Police in Odisha collaboration with the India Post has issued 10 postage stamps, each featuring the Ashok Chakra Awardees from the Police Department across the country.
- ❖ The Keonjhar Police, Odisha has issued these stamps under the “My Stamp” scheme.



- ❖ The stamps which are of Rs 5.00 denomination and have the background picture of Sun Temple, Konark.
- ❖ “Ashok Chakra”, which is India’s highest peacetime gallantry medal with 84 awardees till date, is equivalent to “Param-Veer Chakra”.

Permanent NDRF Batallion For Arunachal

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh was given a permanent battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has laid the foundation stone for the 12th battalion headquarters at Hollongi.
- ❖ The presence of a permanent battalion will not only help Arunachal Pradesh, but will also be available for service to neighbouring Assam.

Adhyatmik Vibhag

- ❖ The Government of Madhya Pradesh has announced setting up of a new Adhyatmik Vibhag (spiritual department).
- ❖ The proposed new department will be set up by merging several existing departments.
- ❖ The 'Anand Vibhag' (Department of Happiness) set up by the previous BJP government, a first in the country, would be incorporated into the new department.

MISCELLANEOUS

Digital Transformation Hackathon

- ❖ An Indian-American teenager, Mahum Siddiqi (17) has won the inaugural “Digital Transformation Hackathon” at Cornell University, New York.
- ❖ It has been awarded to him for designing a device which can detect the actual level of pain of a patient during a diagnosis.
