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DECEMBER

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We Shine Study Circle

TNPSC

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(CURRENT AFFAIRS)

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NATIONAL NEWS

- Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, **Trivendra Singh Rawat** launched the '**Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana**' in **Dehradun**. Under the scheme, each household in the state will be able to avail medical treatment of up to **5 lakh rupees** annually.
 - He also launched the mobile application and website for 'Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana'.
- To end the complete encryption system to trace 'unlawful' activities for better national security, the **Union Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** announced draft rules of the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2018**.
 - It will be mandatory for online platforms to deploy technology to enable access to content seen as "unlawful".
- **Kuno, in Madhya Pradesh**, was notified as '**national park**'. This move was made after the compliance with the last condition imposed by a Supreme Court was met.
 - This would enable translocation of lions from Gir in Gujarat to Kuno.
- The tribal **Baduga** community in the **Nilgiris** district of **Tamil Nadu** celebrated their annual **Heddaiyamman** festival. The Badugas are an indigenous tribal group in the Nilgiris and occupy more than 400 remote hill villages in the district.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **Italy's Mount Etna, Europe's highest and most active volcano** erupted, sending a huge column of ash into the sky and causing the closure of Catania airport on Sicily's eastern coast.
 - The **3,330 meter** high volcano can burst into spectacular action several times a year, spewing lava and ash high over the Mediterranean island. The last major eruption was in 1992.

- Thailand approved the licensed use of **marijuana** and **kratom** for medical use and research. It became the first country in Southeast Asia to take such action.
- The **Japanese** government officially announced to withdraw from the **International Whaling Commission (IWC)**, enabling Japan to pursue commercial whaling in its adjacent waters, including its **Exclusive Economic Zone**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- The isolated central Asian country, **Turkmenistan**, where many of the social media sites including Facebook and Whatsapp are banned, launched its own and the **first** Turkmen messaging app **BizBarde** that will allow the exchange of messages, files, photos and videos.

APPOINTMENTS

- Dronacharya awardee **C A Kuttappa** has taken over as **India's chief boxing coach**. The 39-year-old Kuttappa, credited with shaping some of the country's most successful boxers such as Vijender Singh, M Suranjoy Singh and Shiva Thapa among others, took over from veteran coach S R Singh.

AWARDS

- **Mithali Raj**, captain of the **Indian women's cricket team** and the official ambassador for **Rio Tinto's Australian Diamonds programme**, was honored with the **Senco Gold & Diamonds, Swarna Samman award** at a star-studded event held in Kolkata.
- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (**DIPP**) organized a Swachh Bharat Grand Challenge as a part of the **Swachhta Pakhwada** held from 1st to 15th November 2018 to reward innovative solutions by DIPP recognized Start-ups

in the country.

- The awards were given away by Secretary DIPP, **Ramesh Abhishek** in New Delhi.

SPORTS

- Former Australia captain **Ricky Ponting** became the **25th** Australian cricketer to be officially inducted into the **International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame** at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (**MCG**).

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- **Captain Amarinder Singh**, Chief Minister of Punjab, released the book '**Prince, Patron and Patriarch Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala**', co-authored by the Maharaja's grandson, Brigadier (Retd) **Jagjit Singh**, and **Cynthia Frederick** in Chandigarh.
 - The book which is published by **Roli Books** is a candid tribute by a grandson to the erstwhile exceptional royal king of Kapurthala.