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DECEMBER

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TNPSC

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(CURRENT AFFAIRS)

DECEMBER - 31.12.2018



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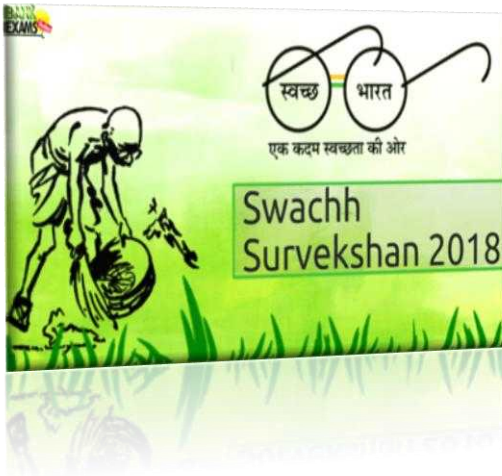
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NATIONAL NEWS

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visited Varanasi and Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh for one day. He announced that **Poorvanchal** will be made a medical hub, and a centre for research in agriculture.
 - He also laid the foundation stone of a **Medical College in Ghazipur**.
- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Home Affairs** approved the proposals of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh for implementation of **Mahila Police Volunteer Scheme (MPVs)**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the **Gaganyaan project** under which a **three-member crew** will be sent to space for **at least seven days**, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad stated. The project will cost **INR 10,000 crore**.
 - India has already inked agreements with **Russia and France** for assistance in the ambitious project.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced **Rs. 4,500 crore** financial assistance to **Bhutan** for its **12th five-year plan** after holding wide-ranging talks with his Bhutanese counterpart **Lotay Tshering**.
 - The new five-year plan of Bhutan began in 2018 and will continue till **2022**.
- The **42nd Indian Social Science Congress** was inaugurated by **Manipur governor Dr Najma Heptulla** at KIIT University campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
 - The theme of the Congress was **'Human Future in Digital Era.'**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **Turkmenistan** has launched **its first messaging app BizBarde**. The privately developed BizBarde app will allow the exchange of messages, files, photos and videos, the state Yaslyk television station announced.
- China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) has started offering global service. It is touted as a rival to America's Global Positioning System (GPS). **Pakistan** has become the first foreign nation to use the **BeiDou system** ending its reliance on GPS.
 - The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) named **NAVIC** is a regional satellite navigation system that provides accurate real-time positioning and timing services covering India and a region extending 1,500 km around it.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- China successfully sent six Yunhai-2 atmospheric environment research satellites and a test communication satellite of Hongyan constellation into orbit. They were launched by a **Long March-2D rocket** from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China.
 - The six **Yunhai-2 satellites** will study atmospheric environment, monitor space environment, prevent and reduce disasters and conduct scientific experiments.

APPOINTMENTS

- Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India announced that **Mr. Y.K. SailasThangal** 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.

AWARDS

- SwachhSurveksahan 2018 award for Best Capital City in the Solid Waste Management was conferred to Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).
 - It also ranked **27th** in the list of **4041** cities in the SwachhSurveksahan Rankings.
- The **Keonjhar Police, Odisha**, in collaboration with **India Post** has issued 10 postage stamps, each featuring the **Ashok Chakra** Awardees from **Police Department** (State Police and Central police) across the country, under the **“My Stamp”** scheme.
 - “Ashok Chakra”, which is India’s highest peacetime gallantry medal with **84** awardees till date is equivalent to **“Param-Veer Chakra”**.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- **The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India** has released a booklet titled **“A Handbook for Students on cyber Safety”** to inform the school children about the different aspects of cyber safety.
 - The booklet aims to create awareness among citizens especially students about cyber threats and provides details about the various safeguards that can be adopted by the children in order to protect themselves from cyber grooming.