



December-28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed senior IPS officer Abhay, presently working in Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), as new Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). The post was lying vacant after R R Bhatnagar took over as DG of CRPF in April 2017.

NATIONAL

India to become fifth largest economy in 2018

- ❖ According to the report titled 2018 World Economic League Table, India is set to overtake the United Kingdom and France to become the world's fifth largest economy in 2018.
- ❖ The report was recently released by The Centre for Economics and Business Research consultancy based in Britain.
- ❖ India currently ranked seventh will overtake UK and France to become the world's fifth largest economy in 2018 in US dollar terms and further move to third spot by 2032.
- ❖ China is likely to overtake the United States as the world's No.1 economy in 2032.
- ❖ In world economic market, Cheap energy and technology prices will boost the global economy in 2018.
- ❖ Russia will fall to 17th place among world's largest economies by 2032, from 11th place in 2017, mainly because of low commodity (oil) prices in international market and its over dependency on energy sector.

Commercial flight nod for made-in-India plane

- ❖ The DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) has allowed Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)-manufactured Dornier 228 to be used for civilian flights.
- ❖ Till now the Dornier 228 aircraft has been used by defence forces and is the first plane to be made in the country for commercial flights.
- ❖ HAL can sell this plane to airlines in India. It can be used by them for regional flights under the government's ambitious UDAN scheme.
- ❖ Dornier 228 is a highly versatile multi-purpose light transport aircraft.



INTERNATIONAL

India, Afghanistan launch second air corridor

- ❖ The second India-Afghanistan air cargo route linking Kabul to Mumbai was officially launched at Hamid Karzai international airport in Kabul.
- ❖ It aims to boost the export of fresh fruits and medicinal plants from Afghanistan.
- ❖ The second route follows the success of the first air cargo route connecting Kabul-New Delhi that was inaugurated by Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani in mid-June 2017.
- ❖ The air corridors between Afghanistan and India will enable the two countries to carry out the trade by circumventing the obstacles posed by Pakistan where earlier trade between former two was happened through land route via Pakistan.

Saudi and Board Games

- ❖ Saudi Arabia is hosting a world chess tournament for the first time, nearly two years after the country's top cleric issued a religious edict against playing the board game.
- ❖ The tournament has been named as the King Salman World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships.
- ❖ The world's top three chess players from Norway, Armenia and Azerbaijan are participating in the tournament.
- ❖ Norwegian Magnus Carlsen is the defending world chess champion.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

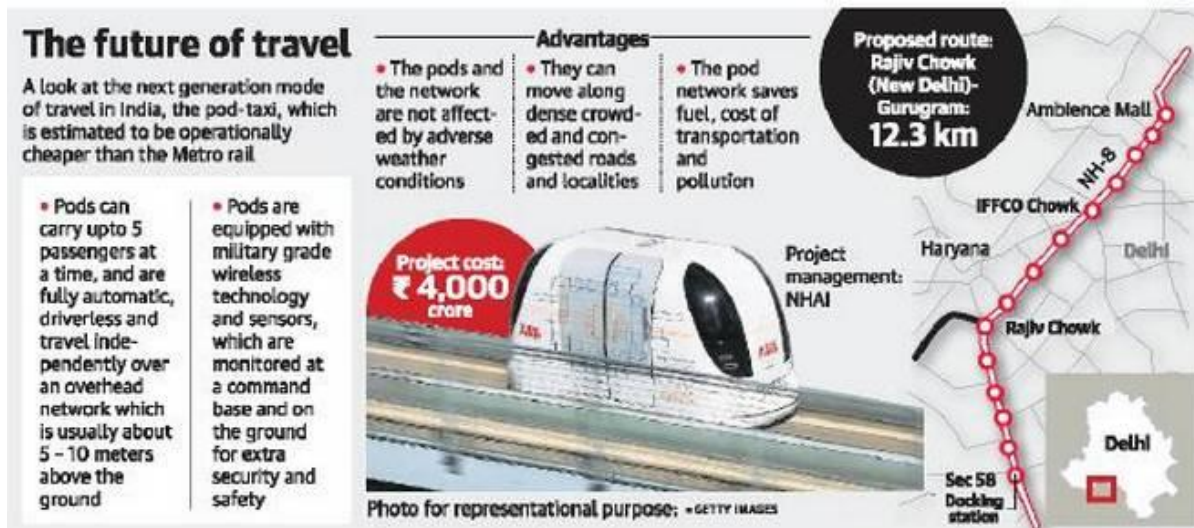
India's 1st pod taxi to follow U.S. safety norms

- ❖ The five-member committee constituted for technical and safety standards of India's first pod taxi project or Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) has invited fresh proposals for strictest safety standards on lines of those prescribed in the US.
- ❖ The committee has recommended issuance of a fresh EOI (expression of interest) incorporating (automated people movers) APM standards and specifications, along with other general safety parameters with Niti Aayog recommendations.

- ❖ The NHAI has been mandated to execute it on a PPP (public-private partnership) basis.
- ❖ It will be executed on Delhi-Gurgaon pilot corridor (12.3 km) from Delhi-Haryana border to Rajiv Chowk in Gurgaon.
- ❖ The model is in place in London's Heathrow airport, Morgantown and Masdar city.

PRT

- ❖ It is an advanced public transport using automated electric pod cars to provide a taxi-like demand responsive feeder and shuttle services for small groups of travellers
- ❖ It is a green mode of uninterrupted journey.



The future of travel

A look at the next generation mode of travel in India, the pod-taxi, which is estimated to be operationally cheaper than the Metro rail.

- Pods can carry upto 5 passengers at a time, and are fully automatic, driverless and travel independently over an overhead network which is usually about 5 - 10 meters above the ground
- Pods are equipped with military grade wireless technology and sensors, which are monitored at a command base and on the ground for extra security and safety

Advantages

- The pods and the network are not affected by adverse weather conditions
- They can move along dense crowded and congested roads and localities
- The pod network saves fuel, cost of transportation and pollution

Project cost: ₹4,000 crore

Proposed route: Rajiv Chowk (New Delhi)-Gurugram: 12.3 km

Project management: NHAI

Photo for representational purpose: - GETTY IMAGES

STATES

President inaugurates Andhra Pradesh Fibre Grid Project

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind has formally inaugurated the Andhra Pradesh Fibre Grid Project at Amaravathy and dedicated it to the nation.
- ❖ The project was initiated by AP CM N Chandrababu Naidu and will be implemented by the Andhra Pradesh State Fibernet Limited (APSFL).
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh State Fibernet Limited (APSFL) is the largest state government-owned telecommunication company in the country,



- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Fibre Grid Project aims to provide high speed internet facility in across state

SPORTS

World Blitz & Rapid Championships 2017

- ❖ Former multiple World Champion Viswanathan Anand of India defeated reigning champion Magnus Carlsen at the World Rapid Championship (WRC) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ In women's category china's ju Wenjun won the title.

MISCELLANEOUS

2017's top-grossing actor in Forbes list

- ❖ Vin Diesel has been named the top-grossing actor of 2017 by Forbes, with \$1.6 billion in global ticketing receipts from his film 'The Fate of the Furious'.
- ❖ The second spot was occupied by Dwayne Johnson 'The Rock', with \$1.5 billion receipts.
- ❖ 'Wonder Woman' actress Gal Gadot, whose films earned \$1.4 billion worldwide, featured in the third spot on the list.
