

**July - 02**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ According to a survey conducted by the Boston Consulting Group and totaljobs.com. London beat New York, Berlin and Barcelona to take the top spot as the most desirable city in the world for overseas workers.
  - Meanwhile, the UK overall has dropped three places in the country rankings, falling from second in 2014 to fifth.
- ❖ Bengaluru-based realty firm Sumadhura Group has roped in MS Dhoni as its first brand ambassador to represent the brand in all their national campaigns, in a multi-year engagement.
- ❖ Researchers at the University of Michigan (UM) in the United States have created the world's smallest computer, Michigan Micro Mote, that measures just 0.3 mm x 0.3 mm in size and is completely dwarfed by a grain of rice.
  - These new microdevices lose all prior programming and data as soon as they are switched off.
- ❖ The Integral Coach Factory (ICF) for the first time has rolled out three phase energy efficient eight car Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) train set built with stainless steel bodies in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
  - MEMU is suburban train system that caters to needs of medium distance inter-city passengers.
- ❖ The Indian Railways has eliminated all unmanned level crossings (UMLC) from its four zones viz. West Central Railway, Central Railway, Eastern Railway and South East Central Railway. These four zones aggregating 11,545 route kilometers have now become UMLC free on broad gauge route.

## **NATIONAL**

### **9th Heads of Mission Conference**

- ❖ The 9th Heads of Mission Conference was held in New Delhi from June 30-July 2, 2018. It was inaugurated by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.



- ❖ The theme of the three-day annual conference was ‘Unprecedented Outreach: Unparalleled Outcomes’.

### **First Delta Ranking**

- ❖ The NITI Aayog has released first Delta ranking for 108 aspirational districts to measure their incremental progress across five developmental areas during the 2-month period of April and May 2018.
- ❖ The purpose of Delta rankings is to spur a sense of competition among dynamic teams in aspirational districts.
- ❖ Most improved aspirational districts are Dahod (Gujarat, rank: 1st), West Sikkim district (Sikkim, 2nd). Ramanathapuram district (Tamil Nadu, 3rd) and Vizianagaram (Andhra Pradesh, 4th) and YSR Kadapa district (Andhra Pradesh, 5th).
- ❖ Kupwara (Jammu and Kashmir), Begusarai (Bihar), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Simdega (Jharkhand) and Khagaria (Bihar) were listed as first to fifth aspirational districts, respectively, in the least improved states.

### **Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETI)**

- ❖ India was ranked 35th among 100 countries (countries) in recently released Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETI).
- ❖ In this edition of the index, India has moved up one place due to improvement in market fundamentals, policy reforms, and liberalization of FDI.



- ❖ The index was released by realty consultant JLL. India was ranked 36th in the index during the last bi-annual survey conducted in 2016 and 40th in 2014.
- ❖ Its real estate market is currently placed in the ‘semi-transparent’ zone.
- ❖ The Top 5 countries are United Kingdom (1st), Australia (2nd), United States (3rd), France (4th), Canada (5th).

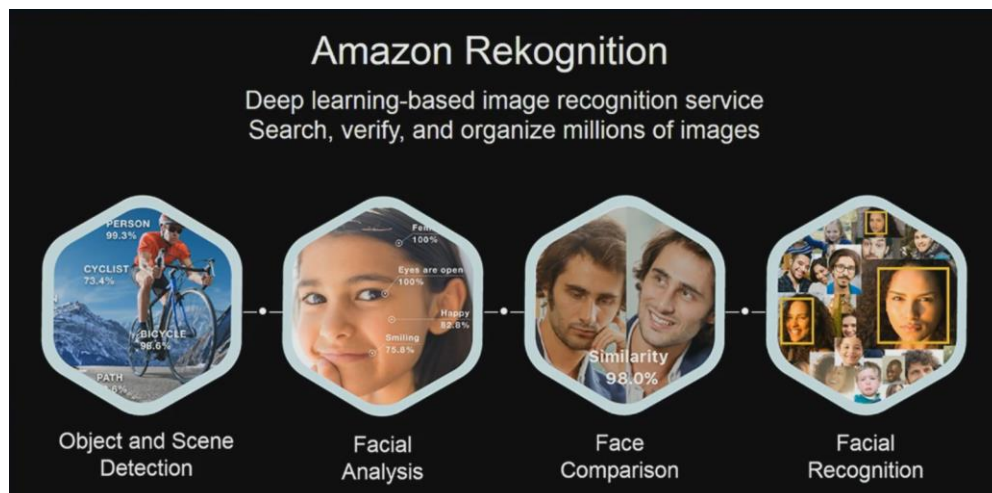
2018 Rank	Market	Region	Investment Performance	Market Fundamentals	Listed Vehicles	Regulatory and Legal	Transaction Process	Sustainability	2018 Composite Score
1	United Kingdom	EUR	1.0	1.8	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.9	1.2
2	Australia	AP	1.2	1.6	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.6	1.3
3	United States	AM	1.1	1.6	1.0	1.4	1.4	2.4	1.4
4	France	EUR	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.4
5	Canada	AM	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.2	2.0	1.5
6	Netherlands	EUR	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2	2.1	1.5
7	New Zealand	AP	1.8	1.6	1.0	1.6	1.0	3.0	1.6
8	Germany	EUR	2.2	2.0	1.2	1.8	1.4	2.7	1.9
9	Ireland	EUR	2.4	2.3	1.3	1.6	1.0	3.4	1.9
10	Sweden	EUR	2.0	2.8	1.3	1.6	1.5	2.7	1.9

- ❖ Top 5 worst performers are Venezuela (100), Libya (99), Senegal (98), Mozambique (97) and Ivory Coast (96).

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### “ReUnite” App launched

- ❖ The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation has launched mobile application “ReUnite” in New Delhi to track and trace missing and abandoned children in India.





- ❖ It has been developed by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi's NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan and IT company Capgemini.
- ❖ It uses Amazon Rekognition, a web-based facial recognition service to identify missing kids.
- ❖ The photographs uploaded on the app will not be saved in the mobile phone's physical memory.

## STATES

### **'Paani Bachao, Paise Kamao'**

- ❖ The Punjab government has launched a new scheme 'Paani Bachao, Paise Kamao' to check depletion of underground water
- ❖ It has proposed to roll out this scheme at two clusters/feeders -Bambiwal and Nawajipur - of the district on a pilot basis.
- ❖ Under this scheme, farmers will get the monetary benefit for less use of tube well.

### **"No Toilet, No Bride"**

- ❖ Dharampal, the Sarpanch of Godikan village panchayat in Haryana, has passed a 'No Toilet No Bride' resolution to ensure the safety and well-being of its womenfolk.
- ❖ With this move, the Godikan panchayat has become the first panchayat in the country to marry off girls only to families who have a toilet in their house.



## **No Toilet No Bride**

- ❖ The move is aimed at ensuring the security of their daughters in addition to hygiene.
- ❖ Godikan panchayat has already been declared an Outdoor Defecation Free (ODF) panchayat.



### **Study Committee for Floating Solar Power Plant**

- ❖ The Maharashtra government has set up a committee to study issues related to the development of a 1,000-MW floating solar power plant at Ujani dam in Solapur district.
- ❖ The committee will be headed by the Director (Commercial) of Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd (MSEDCL), Satish Chavan.
- ❖ Among other things, the committee will study the environmental impact of the project and monitor the month-wise water level of the dam.
- ❖ Ujani, located in Madha taluka of Solapur, around 300 km from Mumbai, is among the largest dams in Maharashtra.

### **Madhya Pradesh awarded for reducing maternal mortality**

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh was awarded by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for reducing maternal mortality under Prime Minister's Safe Motherhood Campaign (Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan-PMSMA).
- ❖ The state was awarded for registering an unprecedented 48-digit decline in maternal deaths from 2014 to 2016 as per report of Registrar General of India (RGI).
- ❖ The maternal mortality rate in Madhya Pradesh was 221 in 2011-13, which has now dropped down further to just 173.
- ❖ This accounts to significant 22% decline in the last three years in the state.
- ❖ PMSMA was launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to provide free health check-ups to pregnant women at government health centers and hospitals in both rural and urban areas.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **Director General (DG) of International Organization for Migration**

- ❖ Portugal's Antonio Manuel de Carvalho Ferreira Vitorino (61) was elected as next Director General (DG) of International Organization for Migration (IOM), a UN Migration Agency.
- ❖ He will succeed incumbent DG William Lacy Swing who will be stepping down after completing the second of two five-year terms.



- ❖ In this election for the topmost post of IMO (held in secret ballot), Vitorino defeated Costa Rica's Laura Thompson who came second and US nominee Ken Isaacs who came third.
- ❖ IOM is UN Migration Agency headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.



- ❖ It was established in 1951 as Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) to help resettle people displaced by World War II.
- ❖ It was granted Permanent Observer status to UN General Assembly in 1992. The cooperation agreement between IOM and UN was signed in 1996.

## SPORTS

### 2018 ICC Women's World T20

- ❖ The 2018 ICC Women's World Twenty20 will be hosted by West Indies from 9 to 24 November 2018.
- ❖ The preliminary round matches will be held at the Guyana National Stadium and Daren Sammy Stadium in St Lucia, while Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua.



- ❖ Barbuda will stage the two semi-finals and the final.
- ❖ Hosts Windies will defend the title they won with an eight-wicket victory over Australia in Kolkata in 2016.

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