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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ University Grants Commission (UGC) has constituted a Committee consisting of Prof. R.C. Deka, Former Director, AIIMS, New Delhi (Chairman) to regulate the fees chargeable by self-financed Deemed to be Universities in Medical and Dental Courses.
- ❖ For the first time, the government has admitted girls at the Sainik school in Mizoram on a pilot basis for the academic year 2018-19.
- ❖ Indian Army has awarded a Rs.100-crore contract for 81 high mobility 10×10 vehicles to India's leading vehicle manufacturer Ashok Leyland. This is for the first time Indian vehicle manufacturer will deliver heavy duty, high mobility vehicles for the launchers which will reduce dependency on imports.
- ❖ Union Government has announced that Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme will be open to all potential researchers from 2019 and not limited to candidates from IISc, IITs, NITs, IEST and IISERs.

TAMILNADU

STAR 2.0

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government is set to launch an 'online' registration of Weddings, Chits, and Societies from August 2018
- ❖ The 'online' property registration portal of Tamil Nadu, STAR 2.0 (Simplified and Transparent Administration of Registration 2.0) was designed by TCS.

NATIONAL

Empowered committee to revive stressed thermal power plant

- ❖ Union Government has constituted a High-Level Empowered Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary to address issues of Stressed Thermal Power Projects.
- ❖ The committee has representatives from Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal and lenders having major exposure to the power sector.

India's first Mobile Open Exchange zone inaugurated

- ❖ Indian Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of country's first Mobile Open Exchange (MOX) zone in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ UP government had signed MoU with World Trade Centre, Noida at UP Investors Summit to develop Tech Zone which will act as a catalyst for the growth of mobile and allied sectors in the state.
- ❖ MOX will be a dedicated ecosystem for the mobile industry, providing an integrated platform to mobile manufacturers, research and development (R&D) and allied industries.

ECONOMY

Global Optimism Index 2018

- ❖ India was ranked 6th in the global optimism index with business optimism tepid in the second quarter (Q2) of 2018.
- ❖ The index was released as part of Grant Thornton's International Business Report (IBR), a quarterly global business survey.
- ❖ The global optimism index for Q2 of 2018 was topped by Indonesia followed by Netherlands, Austria, Philippines, and China.
- ❖ Globally business optimism has dropped from record high net 61% in Q1 2018 to net 54% in Q2 in 2018 and businesses are optimistic about an increase in revenue.
- ❖ India was recently declared as the 6th largest economy by World Bank, surpassing France.

Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA)

- ❖ Banks and Financial Institutions (FIs) have signed the Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA) aimed at faster resolution of stressed assets of Rs. 50 crore or more which are under consortium lending.
- ❖ ICA Framework is part of project 'Sashak'.
- ❖ Under it, the lead lender (having the highest exposure) will be authorized to formulate a resolution plan for operation turnaround of assets which will be presented to lenders for their approval.

- ❖ The plan formulated under ICA will be in compliance with RBI norms and all other applicable laws and guidelines.
- ❖ After recommendations of Government formed Sunil Mehta Committee, Inter-creditor Agreement was prepared under the aegis of Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to serve as a platform for banks and FIs to come together and take joint and concerted actions towards resolution of stressed accounts.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System-II

- ❖ India is in talks with the United States to procure National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System-II (NASAMS-II).
- ❖ It is an advanced air defense system to defend National Capital Region (NCR) from aerial attacks.



- ❖ NASAMS-II is an upgraded version of the NASAMS developed by Raytheon in partnership with KONGSBERG Defence and Aerospace of Norway.
- ❖ It has been operational since 2007.

- ❖ NASAMS-II is part of the air defense network guarding US capital city Washington DC.
- ❖ With this, India will join the league of nations including the US, Russia, and Israel etc. who have their own missile defense systems to protect their national capital regions.

Indigenously built high-power multi-fuel engines

- ❖ Two types of indigenously built high-power multi-fuel engines V-46-6 and V92S2 were handed over to Indian Army for the first time under Make in India.
- ❖ These engines were manufactured by Engine Factory Avadi (EFA), a unit of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).
- ❖ These engines are based on a Russian design. V92S2 is high power diesel engine with 1000 HP capacity and it is fitted in T-90 Battle Tank (Bhisma Tank).
- ❖ V46-6 is also high power diesel engines with 780 HP and it is fitted in T-72 Main Battle Tank (Ajeya Tank).

SPORTS

2nd South African to take 9 wickets in a Test innings

- ❖ South African spinner Keshav Maharaj became the only the second bowler from South Africa to pick nine wickets in an innings in a Test.



- ❖ He surpassed 8/64 recorded by Lance Klusener (Kolkata, 1996)
- ❖ Maharaj bagged his career best 9/129 on the 2nd day of the second Test against Sri Lanka at the SSC Stadium in Colombo.
- ❖ Hugh Tayfield, in 1957, was the first South African to do so when he bagged 9/113 against England in Johannesburg.
- ❖ Overall, Maharaj became the 19th bowler to achieve the feat
- ❖ Only Jim Laker (10/53) and Anil Kumble (10/74) have picked all 10 wickets in an innings of a Test match.

15th National Youth Athletics Championships

- ❖ The 15th National Youth Athletics Championships were held at Manjalpur Sports Complex in Vadodara.
 - ❖ It was organized by Gujarat State Amateur Athletics Association under Athletics Federation of India.
 - ❖ Dhanvir and 100-meter hurdle gold medalist Aparna Roy was declared as 'best athletes' of the meet.
 - ❖ **Haryana** won the **team championships title**. Kerala came in 2nd position.
 - ❖ Haryana athlete Mohit Kumar set a national record in the men's decathlon (6707 pts) to erase the old mark (6618 pts) set by A Sangwan last year.
 - ❖ Rakesh Gond set a youth national record of clearing a height of 4.90m to erase the national mark of 4.75m set by Kanhaiya Singh in 2017.
 - ❖ Punjab shot putter Dhanvir Singh, scripted a record in the 5th attempt by throwing 19.69m and broke the record of Navtejdeep Singh in 2011 (19.34m).
 - ❖ Kerala's Vishnu Priya broke the women's 400-meter hurdles record after she clocked 1:02.52s.
 - ❖ The previous meet record was scripted by PO Sanya in 2015 (1:02.58s).
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