

September -12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways announced that commercial vehicles such as buses, taxis, and rickshaws powered by alternative fuels such as "Ethanol, Methanol, Bio-diesel and CNG" will be exempted from the requirement of a permit.
- ❖ IIT, Madras helps the Government to install Low-cost Air quality monitor in Rameswaram. It will be installed at the Vivekananda Kendra with the data being linked to the Air Research Laboratory at IIT, Madras
 - It will show PM 10 and PM 2.5 levels in the atmosphere, besides providing data on humidity levels, temperature and carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide levels
- ❖ The first ever direct bus service between Bihar and Nepal was started from Patna by the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
- ❖ Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has been honored at the Women in Film and Television (WIFT) India Awards.
 - The award has been established to honor the best female talent in Bollywood and Hollywood.
- ❖ India's Sameer Verma and the pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty clinched the men's singles and doubles titles respectively at the Hyderabad Open badminton tournament.
- ❖ Alok Amitabh Dimri has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kyrgyz Republic.
- ❖ Vanlalvawna has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- ❖ India, Iran, and Afghanistan held their first tripartite meeting in Kabul, Afghanistan.
- ❖ NITI Aayog, Intel and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) are collaborating to set up a Model International Centre for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI).
 - The collaboration aims to bring together fundamental and applied research, innovation and technology development to solve important problems.

- ❖ Union Ministry of Railways has launched Rail Sahyog web portal (www.railsahyog.in). It will provide a platform for Corporates and PSUs to fund the creation of amenities at railway stations through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds.
- ❖ Rajasthan government has decided to hold a convention on preserving heritage properties & promoting heritage tourism in Bharatpur. It was organised by the Indian Heritage Hotels Association (IHHA).
- ❖ Microsoft has selected seven Indian grantees for AI for Earth programme aimed at empowering people and organizations to solve environmental challenges through the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
 - India now has the third largest number of AI for Earth grantees, after the United States and Canada.

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu's new ICT Policy

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Government has announced a new Information Communication Technology Policy, 2018.
- ❖ This policy will address the aspirations of investors, especially IT and ITeS companies, MSMEs and start-ups by way of provision of standard administrative incentives, fiscal incentives, capital subsidies, tax exemptions, and special incentives, among other things.
- ❖ It also has provisions for incubating start-ups and creating Research Parks.
- ❖ Awards for promoting Green IT industry and single-window facility for early clearance from concerned agencies are also part of this policy.

NATIONAL

Plan Bee

- ❖ Indian Railways has come up with an initiative called “Plan Bee” to prevent speeding trains from hitting elephants crossing tracks.
- ❖ The plan involves setting up of devices near tracks, which emit the ‘buzzing’ sound of swarming bees.

- ❖ Already “Plan Bee”, launched in November 2017 at Northeast Frontier Railways (NFR), has been got a great success.

HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has announced the implementation of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017.
- ❖ The bill is a milestone because it empowers a person living with HIV to report discrimination meted out against them in fields of employment, health care services, educational services, public facilities, property rights, holding public office, and insurance.
- ❖ The Act makes Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) a legal right for all HIV/AIDS patients.

INTERNATIONAL

New digital bridge with Africa

- ❖ As part of India's reach out to Africa, the External Affairs Ministry signed an agreement with the Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) to establish a pan-African e-network between the two nations.
- ❖ This project, called the e-VidyaBharati and e-ArogyaBharati Network Project, will serve as a digital bridge between the two countries.
- ❖ This e-network aims at providing quality tele-education and telemedicine facility by linking select Indian Universities, Institutions and Super Specialty Hospitals to African educational institutions and hospitals.

Nomadic Elephant Exercise -2018

- ❖ 13th Indo-Mongolia joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018, held at Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) Five Hills Training Area, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- ❖ Exercise Nomadic Elephant is an annual, bilateral exercise since 2006
- ❖ It is designed to strengthen the partnership between Indian Army and Mongolian Armed Forces.

India & Bangladesh joint projects

- ❖ India, Bangladesh jointly inaugurated three projects related to power supply rehabilitation of existing railway section.
- ❖ Indian Prime Minister, Bangladesh Prime Minister and Chief Ministers of West Bengal and Tripura jointly inaugurated these projects in Bangladesh.
 - Rehabilitation of Kulaura-Shahbazpur section of Bangladesh Railways.
 - 500 MW additional power supply from India to Bangladesh.
 - Akhaura–Agartala Rail Link.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Apsara upgraded- Apsara-U

- ❖ India's oldest research reactor 'Apsara', which was shut down permanently in 2009 for repair, was recommissioned with a higher capacity at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Trombay.
- ❖ This refurbished version of the reactor is named as 'Apsara-Upgraded' (Apsara-U).
- ❖ It was made indigenously and uses plate type dispersion fuel elements made of Low Enriched Uranium (LEU).
- ❖ It will increase indigenous production of radio-isotopes for medical application by about 50 percent.

ENVIRONMENT

Global Summit on Climate Action

- ❖ The 2018 Global Summit on Climate Action held at San Francisco in California, United States.
- ❖ It will serve as a starting point for broader and more effective global commitments, to reduce the impacts of climate change and achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement.
- ❖ It will also promote climate action in five key areas:
 - Healthy Energy Systems,
 - Inclusive Economic Growth,

- Sustainable Communities,
- Land and Ocean Stewardship,
- Transformative Climate Investments.

STATES

Road Accident Data Management System -RADMS

- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir became the third state in the country to use software for standard and accurate data on road accidents.
- ❖ The Road Accident Data Management System (RADMS) is an automated software-based solution on road-accident data.
- ❖ RADMS is a geographical information system (GIS) solution for identification of black spots, wrong driving practices, road infrastructure, vehicular defects, road types, damage to property, overloading issues, driver issues and other factors causing or related to road accidents.
- ❖ Earlier, Tamil Nadu and Punjab had introduced RADMS.

First Regional Workshop on RERA

- ❖ Housing and Urban Affairs Minister (Independent Charge) inaugurated the first regional workshop on RERA (Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act) in Pune.
 - ❖ Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), launched in 2016, is aimed at consumer protection, by creating an online system for information sharing in the real estate sector.
 - ❖ It allows states to set up the Regulatory Authority and the Appellate.
 - ❖ Maharashtra is one of the first states to implement the provision of RERA.
 - ❖ It has also established the Real Estate Regulatory Authority of Maharashtra, which is popularly known as MahaRERA.
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