

October – 17

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tracey Crouch, the world's first minister for loneliness appointed by the UK government this year, is set to launch her first anti-loneliness strategy to combat the scourge of isolation.
- ❖ Nimesh Shah, MD and CEO of ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund, has been elected as Chairman of trade body, Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). Shah has replaced A Balasubramanian, CEO of Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund.
- ❖ Vice President has released a biography, titled 'Building a Legacy', of late Anumolu Ramakrishna, a pioneer in the application of innovative systems and construction techniques in the Indian construction sector.
 - It is authored by Chartered Accountant V Pattabhi Ram.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved a proposal to rename the historic city of Allahabad as Prayagraj. The new name derives from a place in the city called Prayag, where three rivers flowing across the state meet.
- ❖ The Indo- Mexican pair, Leander Paes and Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela has won the Santo Domingo Open trophy held at Dominican Republic.

TAMIL NADU

Smart identity cards

- ❖ Government Higher Secondary School in Porur has become the first government funded school in the state to issue smart identity cards to its students.
- ❖ The Government implemented this project in association with the firm, Brigantia.
- ❖ The project involves two major components
 - A Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) scanner and
 - ID cards fitted with microchips.
- ❖ The cards will help monitor the entry/ exit of students, and alert the headmaster and parents if students try to bunk classes.

NATIONAL

Swasth Bharat Yatra

- ❖ The Union Government has launched a national campaign 'Swasth Bharat Yatra' on the occasion of World Food Day (16th October).
- ❖ It aims to sensitise people about eating safe food and be healthy.
- ❖ The campaign has been launched in association with states and led by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Youth Road Safety Learners Licence Programme

- ❖ Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has launched Youth Road Safety Learners Licence programme in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is Public-private partnership (PPP) initiative in collaboration with Diageo India and Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE).
- ❖ It is first-of-its-kind training programme in the country.

Award scheme under 'Saubhagya' launched

- ❖ The Union Government has launched an award scheme under 'Saubhagya' scheme.
- ❖ The new Award scheme will felicitate the power distribution companies (DISCOMs) and Power Department of the States and their employees for achieving 100% household electrification.
- ❖ The 8 states which have already achieved more than 99% household electrification before the launch of the scheme are ineligible for the awards.
- ❖ Those 8 states are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The 'Saubhagya' scheme is also known as 'Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana'.

National Health Profile 2018

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has released an 12th edition of Analytical Report of the National Health Profile 2018.

- ❖ The report was prepared by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), under the aegis of the Directorate General of Health Services.
- ❖ CBHI has been publishing the National Health Profile every year since 2005.

INTERNATIONAL

International Conference on Indian Ocean

- ❖ A two-day International Conference on Indian Ocean was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The theme of the conference is “The Indian Ocean: Defining our Future”.

ECONOMY

CA Institute’s nine-member group

- ❖ Naveen Gupta, President, CA Institute, has constituted a nine-member High Power Group to study the systemic issues at debt-laden IL&FS Group.
- ❖ This High-Power Group will have Shivaji B Zaware as its convenor
- ❖ The committee includes two past presidents of the CA Institute – Ved Jain and Nilesh S Vikamsey.
- ❖ The committee will suggest remedial measures and improvement in the system.

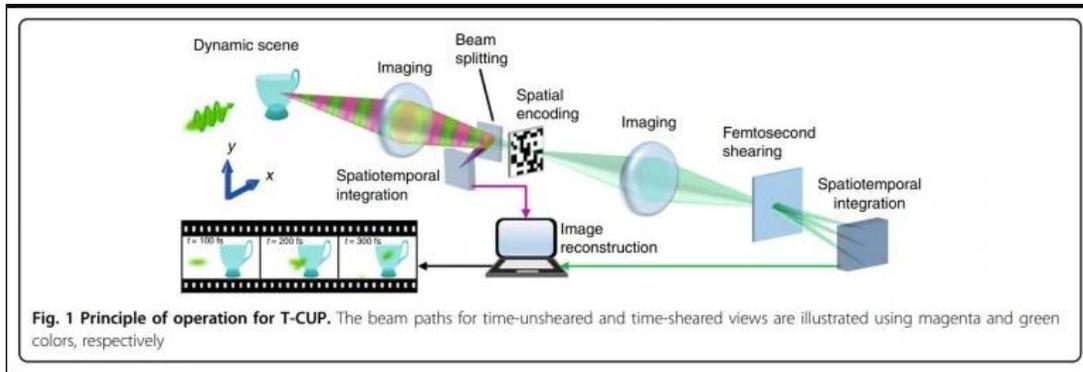
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Ask Disha

- ❖ The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has recently launched a chatbot “Ask Disha” to help its users answer various queries.
- ❖ The AI chatbot, Ask Disha, is powered by artificial intelligence (AI) and it has been jointly developed by IRCTC and CoRover Private Limited.
- ❖ The first-of-its-kind initiative is aimed at facilitating accessibility by answering users’ queries pertaining to various services offered to railway passengers.

World's fastest camera - T-CUP

- ❖ US scientists have developed the world's fastest camera, T-CUP (compressed ultrafast photography).
- ❖ It can capture 10 trillion frames per second - making it possible to 'freeze time' to see light in extremely slow motion.



- ❖ The camera has set a world record for real-time imaging speed.
- ❖ The researchers integrated 'Compressed ultrafast photography' (CUP) which was at 100 billion frames per second with femtosecond lasers to form T-CUP system.

Punjab launches 3 Mobile Apps to check Stubble Burning

- ❖ Punjab Chief Minister has launched 3 Android mobile applications to prevent crop residue burning.
- ❖ The 3 apps are,
 - i-Khet Machine (in-situ management of crop residue)
 - e-PEHaL (monitor tree plantation)
 - e-Prevent (Information about incidents of crop residue burning)
- ❖ The 3 Android mobile applications have been developed by Punjab Remote Sensing Centre (PRSC).

STATES

Haryana's first autism research centre

- ❖ First of its kind in Haryana, National Autism Intervention Research Centre was launched at Fortis Memorial Research Institute in Gurugram.

- ❖ The centre, dedicated to people suffering from Autism, has been started in association with Behaviour Momentum India.

Graded Response Action Plan

- ❖ The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) started implementation of a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to control air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region.
- ❖ The air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region has begun to show a trend towards poor category.
- ❖ The SC-empowered EPCA is mandated to take steps to tackle air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement 2018

- ❖ National award-winning music director Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi, famously known as Khayyam has been named for this year's Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement.
- ❖ This year, the award ceremony coincides with 81st birthday of Hridaynath Mangeshkar after whom award is named.
- ❖ The award was established in 2011 by Mumbai-based socio-cultural organisation Hridayesh Art in honour of music composer and singer Hridaynath Mangeshkar.

SPORTS

Dutch Badminton Open 2018

- ❖ Sourabh Verma beats Malaysia's Jun Wei Cheam and won the Dutch Open title in Almere.
- ❖ The women's singles title was won by Mia Blichfeldt of Denmark, who defeated China's Qi Xuefei to bag the Dutch open title.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Students Day – 15 October

- ❖ World Students' Day is observed every year on October 15 to mark the birth anniversary of A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, the former President of India.
- ❖ In 2015, the United Nations declared 15th October as "World Students' Day".
