



April – 01

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Greentech Mega Food Park Private Ltd- the first mega food park in Rajasthan at Roopangarh Village in Ajmer.
- ❖ Veteran director Shekhar Kapur has been appointed as chairman of the central panel of the 65th National Film Awards (NFA). The central panel comprises a chairperson and 10 other members, including five regional chairpersons who head the respective regional panels.
- ❖ Lt Gen Harpal Singh, an alumnus of National Defence Academy (NDA) of Khadakwasla, has been appointed Director General Border Roads (DGBR). He was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers in 1982. He later commanded a Border Roads Task Force in Jammu and Kashmir valley.
- ❖ Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar launched a skill development initiative of BMW, termed 'Skill Next,' at the car major's plant in Chennai with the students of College of Engineering, Guindy.

NATIONAL

Educational reforms – Cabinet approval

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved a slew of reforms for school education in the country, in what could be considered as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan-2 project.
- ❖ The SSA, the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, and teacher training would be integrated into a single scheme from Classes 1 to 12.
- ❖ The integrated scheme will be in place from April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2020, with an estimated allocation of Rs. 75,000 crores over the period (20% increase from the present).
- ❖ The government would focus on educationally backward districts, disabled students, and women.
- ❖ The skill courses, which are now functional from Class 9 to Class 12, would begin from Class 6 in future, aimed at enhancing the employability of students.
- ❖ The Centre has also approved an increase in the outlay for making educational loans interest-free for students with modest financial means for studying in universities and colleges charging high fees.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

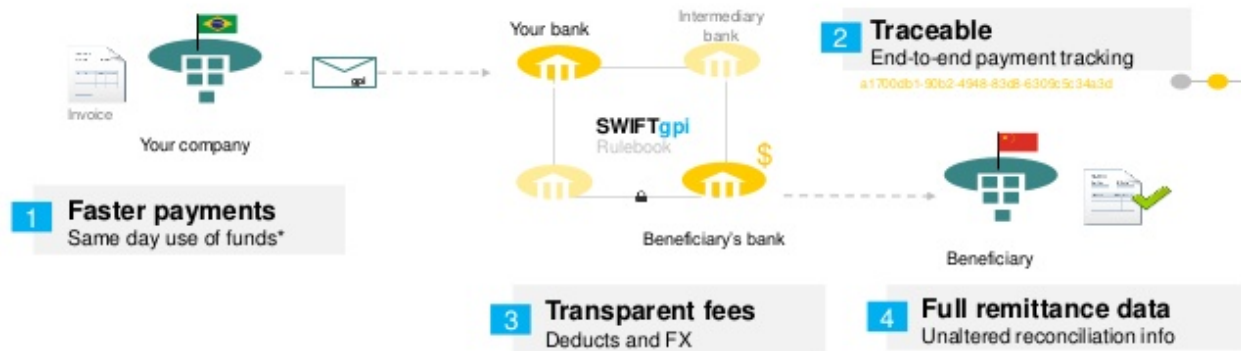
GPI Tracker system

- ❖ Secure financial messaging services provider SWIFT has expanded the GPI (Global Payment Innovation) Tracker system to help banks track their global transactions at all times, keeping full vigil on the payments activity.
- ❖ The expansion of GPI Tracker will cover all payment instructions sent across the network and give them full visibility over all their payments activity.
- ❖ From November 2018, GPI Tracker system i.e. unique end-to-end transaction reference will be included in all payment instructions carried between all 11,000 customers on SWIFT at all times, across more than 200 countries and territories.
- ❖ SWIFT GPI was launched in May 2017 to help banks to track their global transactions at all times, keeping full vigil on payments activity.

SWIFT (Society for World Interbank Financial Telecommunication System) platform

- ❖ SWIFT is global financial messaging service that enables financial institutions worldwide to send and receive information about financial transactions in a secure, standardized and reliable environment.
- ❖ It was founded in 1973 and is headquartered in La Hulpe, Belgium. It is used to transmit messages relating to cross-border financial transactions.
- ❖ It is a cooperative society under Belgian law owned by its member financial institutions with offices around the world.

SWIFT gpi: secure, faster, traceable & transparent cross-border payments



*Within the time zone of the receiving gpi member




Singapore Business Forum - February 2017

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ISRO – GSAT 6A satellite

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched GSAT 6A communication satellite on board of GSLV-F08 rocket from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ This was overall 12th GSLV flight (and fifth successful) and sixth flight with indigenously built cryogenic upper stage engine.
- ❖ GSAT-6A is high power S-band communication satellite with a mission life of about 10 years. It was placed in Geosynchronous orbit of Earth.
- ❖ It is most powerful home-made communication satellite till date.
- ❖ It is similar to GSAT-6 which is a high power S-band communication satellite that was launched back in 2015
- ❖ The S-band's antenna of GSAT-6A was developed by ISRO's Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad.



POWERING THROUGH SPACE

Satellite | **GSAT-6A**

Launch vehicle | **GSLV-F08**
(three stage rocket)

Orbit | **Geostationary**

Weight of the satellite |
2,140kg

Weight of rocket |
415.6 tonnes

Life span | **10 years**

MISSION

- Provide mobile **communication through hand-held ground terminals**
- 6m diameter unfurlable antenna for **communication link for S-band**
- 0.8m fixed antenna for **hub communication link in C band frequency**

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ROCKET

Induction of high thrust **indigenous cryogenic Vikas Engine in second stage**

Use electro-chemical automation in place of electro-hydraulic actuation system



STATES

National Water Digest Award - Chhattisgarh

- ❖ Chhattisgarh was awarded National Water Digest Award for Water Conservation-Diversion and increasing the irrigation capacity in the state.
- ❖ The award was presented to Chhattisgarh Water Resources Department (CWRD) on the occasion 'World Forestry Day' (observed on March 21) in New Delhi.
- ❖ This is the first time that CWRD was given national Award during the past 17 years.

National Water Digest Award

- ❖ The Award is presented every year by the globally renowned magazine 'Water Digest' which focuses mainly on water resources.
- ❖ The award is given in association with Central Water Resources River Development (CWRRD) and Ganga Cleaning Ministry, UNESCO, Central Water Board (CWB), Central Water Commission (CWC) and Ganga Purification National Mission.
- ❖ The award is recognized by UNESCO.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

CEO of Ayushman Bharat mission

- ❖ Indu Bhushan was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Centres ambitious Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission (ABNHPM).
- ❖ Bhushan, the Director General of East Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila, Philippines, has been appointed to the post for a period of two years.
- ❖ The scheme has the benefits cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year. The cover will take care of almost all secondary care and tertiary care procedures.
- ❖ The scheme aims to target over 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on the 2011 Socio-Economic and Caste Census database.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade – 25 March

- ❖ The International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed every year on March 25 across the world.
- ❖ Observance of this day honors and remembers those who suffered and died as consequence of transatlantic slave trade.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2018 is 'Remember Slavery: Triumphs and Struggles for Freedom and Equality'.
- ❖ It celebrates freedom of African descent people from slavery. It also acknowledges challenges faced by people in the movement towards freedom and equality.
- ❖ The International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade was instituted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by adopting a resolution in 2007.
- ❖ It was first observed in 2008 and since then it is observed annually. The same year, UNGA had established Remember Slavery Programme to honor the memory of victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.
- ❖ It is managed by Education Outreach Section of Department of Public Information's Outreach Division of UN.
