

April- 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated World Hindi Secretariat building in Port Louis, Mauritius. The Secretariat is fully financed by Government of India and provided a grant of Rs. 33 crores. Land for it was given by Government of Mauritius.

NATIONAL

C-17 Globemaster

- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) for first time flawlessly landed its largest transport US-manufactured aircraft, C-17 Globemaster.



- ❖ IAF landed C-17 Globemaster at strategic Tuting Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) in Arunachal Pradesh, which is close to the Chinese border.
- ❖ The landing of this aircraft is seen as part of IAF's move to strengthen its overall operations in a strategically-key border state.

C-17 Globemaster

- ❖ The C-17 is US-manufactured transport aircraft commonly used to perform strategic airlift missions, transporting troops and cargo throughout the world along with medical evacuation and airdrop duties.
- ❖ It can be operated in diverse terrain from Himalayan air bases in North India at 13,000 ft to Indian Ocean bases in South India.



- ❖ In 2013, C-17 was officially put into service by IAF.

I – Metros

- ❖ The Union Housing Ministry has launched I-Metros at a Conference on “Indian Metros: Collaborating for Excellence” held at Metro Bhawan in New Delhi.
- ❖ I-Metros is an association of all Indian Metro Rail companies.
- ❖ It is established for Indian Metro Rail companies for mutual sharing of ideas & experiences for nurturing excellence in their performance.
- ❖ On this occasion, “The Operator’s Story”- a publication by World Bank and Railway and Transport Strategy Centre (RTSC), Imperial College London on findings of the research on “What makes Metros successful” was also released.

Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement between India and France.
- ❖ The agreement represents a major milestone in enhancing people-to-people (P2P) contacts between both countries.
- ❖ It will be initially valid for a period of 7 years and incorporates provision for automatic renewal and monitoring mechanism through Joint Working Group (JWG).

India - Hellenic Agreement

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has apprised Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy between India and Hellenic.
- ❖ The MoU envisages establishing Joint Working Group (JWG) to review, monitor and discuss matters relating to areas of cooperation.
- ❖ This MoU aims to establish a basis for the cooperative institutional relationship to encourage and promote technical bilateral cooperation on new and renewable issues on basis of mutual benefit equality.



1st National Conclave on Psychological Trauma, Child Protection, and Mental Illnesses

- ❖ The first National Conclave on Psychological Trauma, Child Protection, and Mental Illnesses held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The two-day conclave was organized by Ministry of Women & Child Development in collaboration with the Department of Psychiatry, AIIMS.
- ❖ It was aimed to provide a comprehensive synthesis of research, service provision and clinical practice in addressing psychological trauma and subsequent mental illnesses in Indian children and adolescents.

INTERNATIONAL

Digital Initiative for ease of exports

- ❖ The Ministry of Commerce and Industry have launched digital initiatives of Export Inspection Council (EIC) for ease of export.
- ❖ The ministry launched this initiative under flagship Digital India Initiative to boost India's potential for agricultural and food export.
- ❖ The initiatives are
 - ✓ Lab-one assessment portal
 - ✓ Export Alert Monitoring portal
- ❖ Lab-one assessment portal will provide a unified approach to all stakeholders like accreditation bodies, regulators, and laboratories by bringing them together on the common platform.
- ❖ Export Alert Monitoring portal will monitor non-compliances raised by importing countries.

Export Inspection Council (EIC)

- ❖ EIC is the official export certification body of Central Government. EIC has developed portals to reduce transaction time and cost in a transparent manner.
- ❖ EIC was established by Central Government under Section 3 of Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963.
- ❖ EIC is an advisory body to Central Government. It is empowered to notify commodities which will be subject to quality control and inspection prior to export.

- ❖ EIC also exercises technical and administrative control over the five Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs), one each at Chennai, Delhi, Kochi, Kolkata and Mumbai established by Ministry of Commerce.

ECONOMY

Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income between India and Iran.
- ❖ The agreement will increase the flow of investment and promotes the transfer of technology and personnel from India to Iran & vice versa and prevent double taxation.



- ❖ The Central Government is authorized to enter into Agreement with other country or specified territory for the avoidance of double taxation of income for the exchange of information for prevention of evasion under Section 90 of Income Tax Act, 1961.

Closure of Burn Standard Company Limited

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved closure of Central Public-Sector Enterprise (CPSE) Burn Standard Company Ltd (BSCL) under Ministry of Railways.
- ❖ This decision was taken in view of continuous poor physical and financial performance of the company for more than a decade despite financial

assistance and other support from government and low probability of its revival in future.

SHUTTER SIGNAL

■ Burn Standard to be shut down and put on the block



■ Cabinet approves Rs 417 crore to pay severance packages to 508 employees and clear past debts and liabilities

■ Outstanding loans of Rs 35 crore from railway ministry to be written off

■ Employees to be offered a VRS

- ❖ BSCIL was incorporated in 1976 following nationalization and amalgamation of Burn & Company and Indian Standard Wagon Company Limited under Department of Heavy Industries (DHI).
- ❖ The company was engaged in manufacturing and repair of wagons and production of steel.
- ❖ Its administrative control was transferred from DHI to Ministry of Railways in 2010 as approved by the then Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

E-way Bill

- ❖ As per the previous decision of GST council, the e-way Bill System for Inter-State movement of goods across the country is being introduced from April 2018.
- ❖ With this, the businesses and transporters moving goods worth over Rs. 50,000 from one state to another will have to carry an electronic or e-way bill.
- ❖ The e-way bill provision of the goods and services tax (GST) was first introduced on February 1, 2018.

GST E-WAY BILL VERSUS ERSTWHILE WAY-BILL

Feature	GST e-way bill	Old way-bill
Reduction in detention time	Facility with transporters to raise complaints, in case vehicle is detained for more than 30 minutes	No such facility was available
Facilitates GSTR-1 filing	Relevant details in Form GSTR-1 gets auto-populated basis the details furnished in the e-way bill generation process	No such facility was available
Prevents double-checking	E-way bill verified once not to be checked again by another tax officer during goods movement	No explicit provision existed for prevention of double-checking by tax officers
Contents of way-bill	Harmonized system of nomenclature (HSN) to be mentioned on e-way bill, resulting in additional compliance. No clarity for small assesses who are not required to mention HSN on invoices	No requirement to mention HSN
Requirement of consignee's acceptance	Recipient's acceptance of the e-way bill required (within 72 hours of generation)	No such requirement existed for old way-bills
Registration requirement for transporters	Mandatory	Optional

- ❖ The system has been designed and developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- ❖ Due to some technical issues, the GST Council decided to the roll-out of the e-way bill starting with inter-state from April 1 and intra-state from April 15, 2018.
- ❖ E-way bill is an electronic document generated on the GST Portal, which is a common and shared information technology (IT) infrastructure between the Centre and States; and acts as evidence for movement of goods.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

AYUSH QOL-2C

- ❖ The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) has undertaken the development of coded drug AYUSH QOL-2C for improving quality of life in cancer patients.
- ❖ It had conducted clinical studies of the drug in breast cancer patients.
- ❖ CCRAS is an autonomous body under the Ministry of AYUSH and It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is apex body in India for formulation, coordination, development and promotion of research on scientific lines in Ayurveda and Sowa-Rigpa system of medicine.



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