

April – 09

TAMIL NADU

Amma Free Wi-Fi zones

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has launched Amma Free Wi-Fi zones in five cities of the state.
- ❖ The Wi-Fi facility has been inaugurated at Labour Statue, Marina, Chennai, Central bus stands of Salem and Tiruchirappalli, Gandhipuram bus stand in Coimbatore and Mattuthavani bus stand in Madurai.
- ❖ The facility would be free for first 20 minutes every day and Rs.10 would be charged per hour thereafter.
- ❖ The facility has been provided by state-run Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation (TACTV) at a total cost of Rs 8.50 crore.

NATIONAL

Size India

- ❖ National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi under the Ministry of Textiles is going to conduct National Sizing Survey dubbed as Size India.
- ❖ The survey is to develop comprehensive size chart for ready-to-wear industry based on body measurements of the Indian population.
- ❖ Size India project is scientific exercise where anthropometric data will be collected from 25,000 sample (both men and women) population in the age group 15 to 65 years across six major cities.
- ❖ So far, 14 countries have successfully completed national sizing surveys.
- ❖ The six cities where this survey is going to be conducted- Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Shillong.

World's second largest mobile phone producer

- ❖ India has replaced Vietnam to become the second-largest producer of mobile phones in the world, only after China.
- ❖ This information has been shared by the government on the basis of data provided by the Indian Cellular Association (ICA).

- ❖ As per the information, the annual production of mobile phones in India increased from 3 million units in 2014 to 11 million units in 2017.
- ❖ According to data shared by ICA, India accounted for 11 percent of global mobile production in 2017 compared to 3 percent in 2014.
- ❖ The top three mobile producing countries are China, India, and Vietnam.
- ❖ The government has established a Fast Track Task Force (FTTF) under Ministry of Electronics and IT, which has set the target to achieve around 500 million mobile phone production in India by 2019.

Sahyog-Hyeoblyeog 2018

- ❖ India, South Korea joint anti-piracy, search and rescue exercise ‘Sahyog-Hyeoblyeog 2018’ was conducted in the Bay of Bengal off the Chennai coast in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The exercise was conducted between Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Korean Coast Guard (KCG) as part of the proposed establishment of MoU between them to improve maritime security in Indian Ocean Region (IOR).



- ❖ In this exercise, ICG’s Dornier aircraft and ICG Shaurya, Rani Abbakka, C-423, C-431 from India participated.
- ❖ From Korean side KCG ’s deployed ship BADARO participated.

INTERNATIONAL

Desert Tiger 5

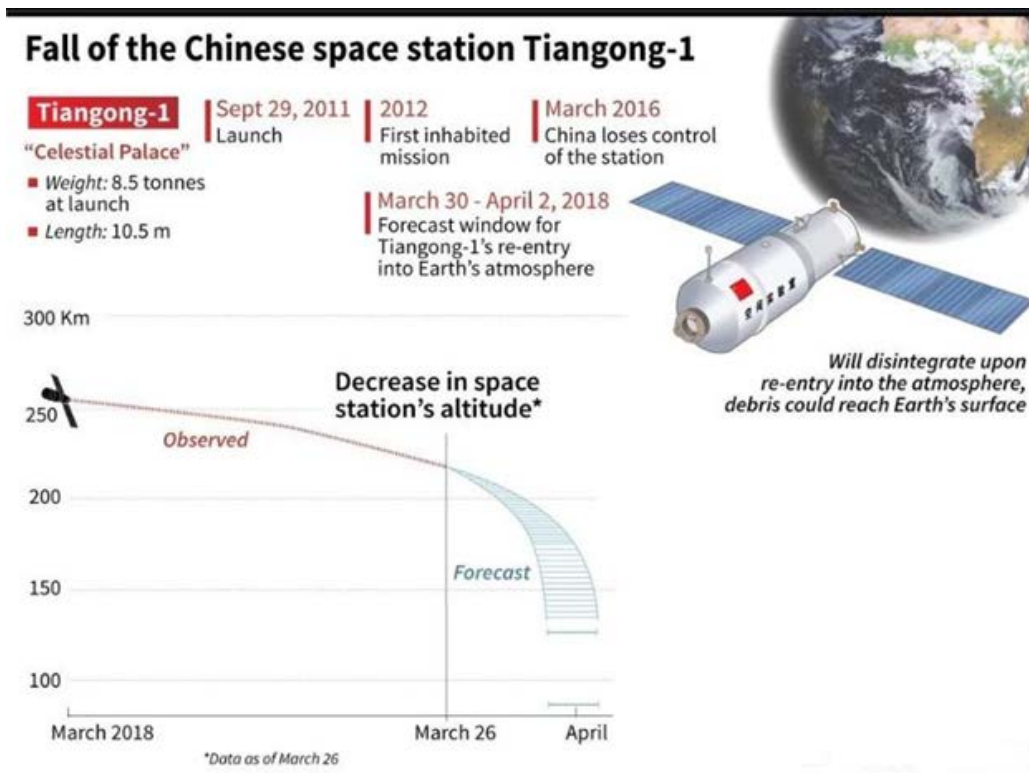
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Malaysia concluded joint military exercise “Desert Tiger 5” in Dubai, UAE.
- ❖ The main aim of Desert Tiger 5 is mutually sharing expertise and enhancing joint military actions between these two countries.

International conference on human rights

- ❖ Nepal will host an international conference to address the issues relating to human rights and impunity in South Asia.
- ❖ Over 50 representatives from 20 countries will be participating in this event.
- ❖ The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of Nepal is hosting the three-day international conference with the theme 'Identifying challenges and assessing progress: addressing impunity and human rights in South Asia'.
- ❖ The conference will issue a 'Kathmandu Declaration' at the conclusion through holding intensive discussions on various issues relating to human rights and impunity.

Tiangong-1

- ❖ China’s out-of-control Tiangong-1 space lab has re-entered Earth’s atmosphere, landing in the middle of the South Pacific Ocean near world’s ‘spacecraft cemetery or graveyard’.
- ❖ Tiangong-1 (Heavenly Palace or Celestial Palace-1) was China’s first prototype space station or space laboratory.
- ❖ It was placed in orbit in September 2011 as part of China’s efforts towards building its own space station independent and unconnected to any other international space-active countries.



- ❖ During its lifespan, Tiangong-1 had served as both manned laboratory and experimental testbed to demonstrate orbital rendezvous and docking capabilities during its active operational life.
- ❖ It was a first operational component of Tiangong program, which aims to place a larger, modular station into orbit by 2023, the time when US-led International Space Station is expected to go out of service.
- ❖ Tiangong-1 was originally planned to be decommissioned in 2013 but its mission was repeatedly extended. It reportedly stopped functioning in 2016.
- ❖ China has launched a second lab, Tiangong-2 in 2017 which continues to be operational.

ECONOMY

Action Plan for Champion Sectors in Services

- ❖ Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of Ministry of Commerce and Industry to give focused attention to 12 identified Champion Services Sectors (CSS) for promoting their development and realizing their potential.

- ❖ The 12 identified Champion Services Sectors (CSS) are
 - Information Technology & Information Technology Enabled Services (IT & ITeS),
 - Medical Value Travel, Transport, and Logistics Services, Tourism and Hospitality Services,
 - Accounting and Finance Services, Audio Visual Services, Communication Services, Legal Services,
 - Construction and Related Engineering Services, Environmental Services, Financial Services and Education Services.
- ❖ Action Plans are made to develop a vision for each of these identified Champion Sectors by the year 2022 and enumerate steps that need to be taken to achieve that vision.
- ❖ The share of India's services sector in global services exports was 3.3% in 2015 compared to 3.1% in 2014. Based on this champion sector initiative, a goal of 4.2 % has been envisaged for 2022.
- ❖ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), the nodal department for 'Make in India' will spearhead initiative for Champion Sectors in manufacturing.
- ❖ Department of Commerce (DoC) will coordinate proposed initiative for Champion Sectors in Services.

STATES

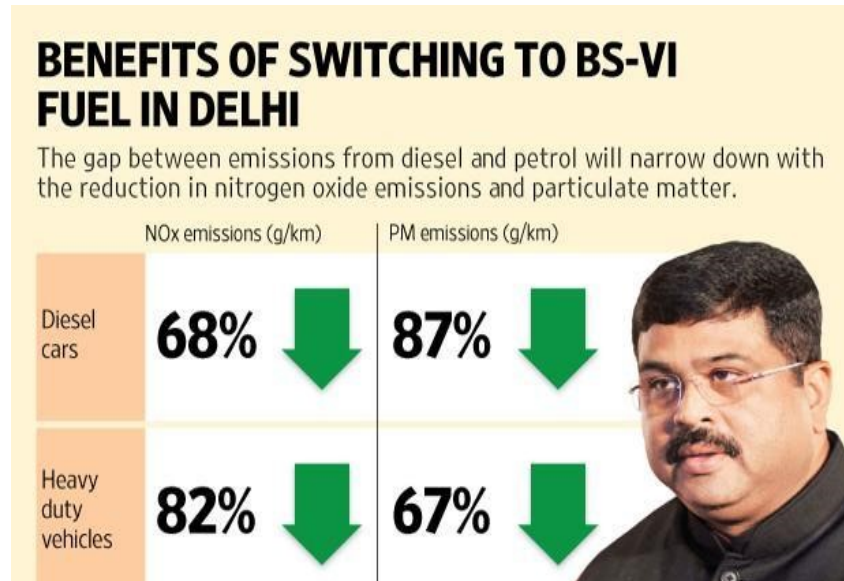
Multi-Modal Logistic Park

- ❖ Multi-Modal Logistics Park at Balli Station near Madgaon in Goa was recently inaugurated. The park is located on Konkan Railway route.
- ❖ It has been set as per MoU entered between Konkan Railway & Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR).
- ❖ The park from its economic transport solutions and state of the art facilities will benefit both trade and industry in Goa.

The first city to roll-out BS-VI fuel

- ❖ Delhi became the first city in India to supply ultra-clean Bharat Stage (BS) VI grade fuel (both petrol and diesel).

- ❖ It has been done with an aim to combat the rising levels of air pollution in Delhi-NCR region.



- ❖ Other cities in NCR like Noida, Gurugram, Ghaziabad, and Faridabad as well as other 13 major cities, including Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune will roll-out cleaner BS-VI grade fuel from January 1, 2019.
- ❖ By switching to BS-VI, India will join the league of US, Japan, and European Union, which follow Euro Stage VI emission norms.
- ❖ The major difference in standards between the existing BS-IV and new BS-VI auto fuel norms is
 - BS-IV fuels contain 50 parts per million (ppm) sulfur,
 - while BS-V and BS-VI grade fuel will have 10 ppm sulfur.
- ❖ Thus, newly introduced BS VI fuel is estimated to reduce the amount of sulfur released by 80%.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

NPPA Chairman

- ❖ Rakesh Kumar Vats, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been given the additional charge of chairman of drug price regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority.

- ❖ Because of appointment of NPPA's chairman Bhupendra Singh as a chairperson of National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention under the Cabinet Secretariat Rakesh Kumar Vats has given with this additional charge.

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

- ❖ NPPA is an independent body under Department of Pharmaceuticals under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- ❖ Set up in 1997, NPPA has been entrusted with the task of fixation/revision of prices of pharma products, enforcement of provisions of Department of Pharmaceuticals and monitoring of prices of controlled and decontrolled drugs.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ookla's Speedtest Global Index

- ❖ As per the Ookla's Speedtest Global Index, India globally ranked 67th in fixed broadband speeds and 109th in terms of mobile internet speeds.
- ❖ Last year, the country ranked 76th in terms of fixed broadband download speed.
- ❖ The report says that the country's performance in fixed broadband download speeds has increased from average speeds of 18.82 Mbps in November 2017 to 20.72 Mbps in February 2018.
- ❖ India's neighbor China was ranked 26th with an average mobile broadband download speed of 33.96 Mbps, Sri Lanka 82nd, Pakistan 92nd, Bangladesh 115th and Nepal 118th.
- ❖ India's neighboring countries China was ranked 20th, Sri Lanka 76th, Bangladesh 86th, Nepal 89th and Pakistan 112nd, in terms of fixed-line broadband download speed.
- ❖ The February Speedtest Global Index shows Norway at pole position in the world for mobile internet with an average download speed of 62.07 Mbps.
- ❖ Singapore takes the top spot for fixed broadband with a 161.53 Mbps average download.
- ❖ Ookla's Speedtest Global Index compares Internet speed data from around the world via 7,021 servers, out of which 439 are present in India.

