



April - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India and Morocco have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of Mining and Geology for a period of 5 years to promote mineral exploration.
- ❖ Boeing India subsidiary of US aerospace manufacturer Boeing, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and Mahindra Defence Systems entered into an agreement to manufacture fighter aircraft F/A-18 Super Hornet in India. Super Hornet is US Navy's main carrier-borne fighter.

NATIONAL

India's first offshore wind project

- ❖ The National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has issued Expression of Interest (EoI) for first offshore wind energy project in India.
- ❖ The global EoI is issued for offshore wind energy developers for developing 1000 MW (1 GW) offshore wind energy project in Gulf of Khambhat, off the coast of Gujarat.
- ❖ With the announcement of this first offshore wind energy project, MNRE is attempting to develop this sector in India.
- ❖ This will help India to attain energy security and achieve National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) targets.
- ❖ Under National Offshore Wind Energy Policy, Chennai based NIWE was designated nodal agency to carry out necessary studies and surveys before final bidding of offshore wind project sites.
- ❖ NIWE has identified areas off coasts of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu for development of offshore wind power.
- ❖ It had installed first offshore LiDAR in Gulf of Khambhat for measurement of wind resource.
- ❖ It will install the second LiDAR off Tamil Nadu coast by September 2018.

First International road construction project

- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed an agreement for upgradation of Yagyi – Kalewa section of highway in Myanmar to two lanes with the earthen shoulder.



- ❖ This project is part of India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway and this project is NHAI's first international project.
- ❖ It is being funded by Ministry of External Affairs, India and will be executed on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode at a cost of Rs.1177 crores.
- ❖ The IMT Trilateral Highway is regional highway being constructed under India's Act East policy to boost connectivity in the region.
- ❖ It will connect India's Moreh in Manipur with Mae Sot, Thailand via Myanmar.
- ❖ The highway is expected to boost trade and commerce in ASEAN-India Free Trade Area, as well as with rest of Southeast Asia.

International Energy Forum Ministerial Meeting

- ❖ India, world's third-largest energy consumer after US and China hosted 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial Meeting in New Delhi.
- ❖ It was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This is second time India hosting IEF Ministerial meeting. It had earlier hosted 5th IEF Ministerial in 1996 at Goa.
- ❖ The theme of 2018 IEF Ministerial Meeting was "The Future of Global Energy Security: Transition, Technology, Trade, and Investment".
- ❖ It was attended by Petroleum Ministers from 42 countries and was co-hosted by China and South Korea.
- ❖ It was aimed to improve policy and investment decisions and through increased knowledge and experience sharing.



HOSTED BY THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CO-HOSTED BY
CHINA & KOREA





First high-speed electric locomotive

- ❖ India's first high-speed electric locomotive with 12000 horsepower (HP) engine has been flagged off by PM from Madhepura Electric Locomotive Factory in Bihar.
- ❖ It is first big Make-in-India project developed and completed by Indian Railways in collaboration with French firm Alstome.
- ❖ With this, India joins an elite list of countries, including Russia, China, Germany and Sweden that have 12,000 HP and above capacity electric locomotives.
- ❖ Till now, the most powerful electric engine in Indian Railways was of 6,000 HP. This 12,000 HP locomotive will be attached to freight trains. They will be used to transport coal and iron ore.

INTERNATIONAL

International Conference on Accessible Adventure 2018

- ❖ International Conference on Accessible Adventure was held at Pokhara in Nepal.
- ❖ The theme of the conference is "Inspiration and Perspiration" and it was organized by Nepal Tourism Board (NTB).
- ❖ This conference relates to the awareness, planning, commitment and collaboration necessary to make Nepal "The Accessible Adventure capital of Asia."
- ❖ The conference has announced March 30 as the new annual 'Tourism for All' day – a day to focus on progress and the importance of accessibility in the tourism industry in Nepal.
- ❖ ICCA 2018 focuses on the accessible adventure as it is a subset of accessible tourism focused on meeting the needs of "slow walker" seniors and the mobile disabled -include prosthetics, deaf, blind, cognitive.

OPEC - Asian Premium issue

- ❖ India is coordinating with China and other Asian countries to raise voice against Asian premium charged by Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
- ❖ Asian Premium is extra charge being collected by OPEC countries from Asian countries in comparison of selling oil prices to western countries.



- ❖ India sources about 86% of crude oil, 75% of natural gas and 95% of LPG from OPEC member nations.
- ❖ India has emphasized implementation of 'Responsible and Reasonable Pricing' by oil-producing countries.

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

- ❖ It was established in 1960 in Baghdad, Iraq.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, and Kuwait, Venezuela are the first five founding members of the OPEC.
- ❖ Its headquarters is located in Vienna, Austria.
- ❖ The OPEC is an intergovernmental organization of 14 oil-exporting nations. It coordinates and unifies the petroleum policies of its member countries.

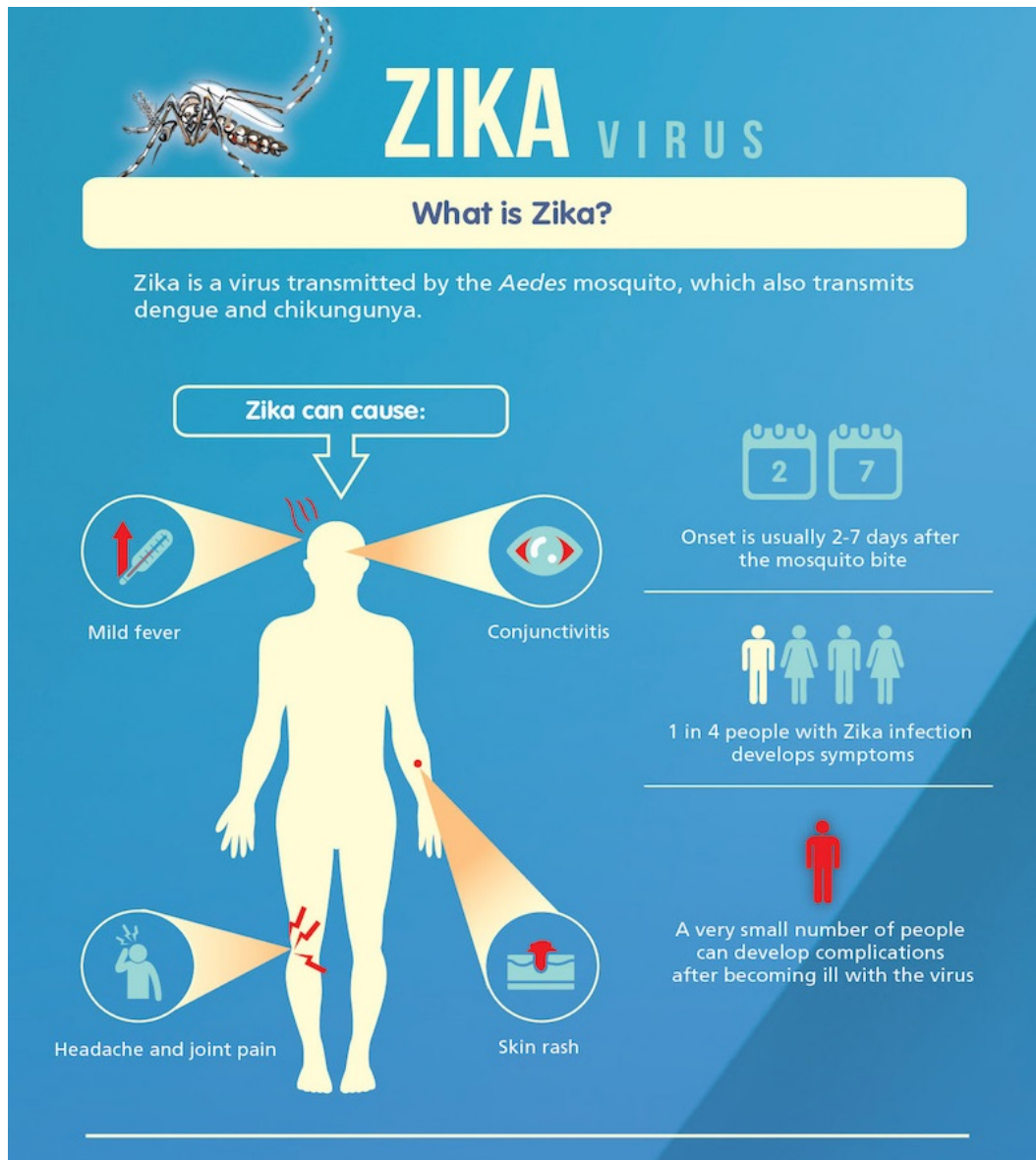
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

World's first contact lens

- ❖ The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the use of Acuvue Oasys Contact Lenses with Transitions Light Intelligent Technology, world's first contact lens that automatically darkens when exposed to bright light.
- ❖ It is first of its kind contact lens to incorporate same technology that is used in eyeglasses that automatically darken in the sun.

Zika virus – National Institute of Virology

- ❖ Recent National Institute of Virology (NIV) study has found that Indian *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that transmits dengue and chikungunya viruses is easily susceptible to zika virus.
- ❖ During the study, it was found that Indian *Aedes aegypti* mosquito infected with African strain MR-766 of zika virus (ZIKV) can easily transmit infection.
- ❖ Zika virus is vector-borne disease transmitted primarily by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes.
- ❖ It can also spread through blood transfusion and sexual contact and is capable of causing serious birth defects
- ❖ In 2013, the first zika virus outbreak was reported in the Marquesas Islands in the southern Pacific Ocean and it subsequently spread to Brazil in May 2015.



STATES

First regional conference of eastern states

- ❖ The first regional conference of eastern states on Water Resources was held in Kolkata, West Bengal in a bid to address major water resources issues.
- ❖ This conference was convened by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.



- ❖ The conference was aimed at addressing outstanding water resources issues, inter-state issues, intra and inter-basin issues among five eastern states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal.
