

June – 05

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India and World Bank signed a 500 million Dollar loan agreement to provide additional financing for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Rural Roads Project.
- ❖ The First biannual IAF Commanders' Conference of 2018 was inaugurated by Defence Minister at Air Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan), Delhi.
- ❖ The book 'Straight Talk' authored by the Member of Rajya Sabha, Mr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, was released by India's Vice President Mr. Venkaiah Naidu.

NATIONAL

Online Analytical Tool

- ❖ Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched an Online Analytical Tool to facilitate closer monitoring of the flow and utilisation of foreign contributions received by various organisations registered or permitted under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.
- ❖ This web-based tool enables decision-makers in various Departments of Government to scrutinise source of foreign funds and their actual use in India.
- ❖ It gives them the capacity to take data-driven and evidence-based decisions regarding the compliance of the provisions of the FCRA, 2010.

Block Chain Technology

- ❖ The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its draft Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference Regulation, 2018 has proposed use of blockchain technology.
- ❖ It aims to check the menace of Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC) or spam calls and messages.
- ❖ This will be for first time; any country will deploy blockchain technology to check unwanted calls.
- ❖ Using blockchain technology, all information can be recorded and more options can be given to customers regarding commercial communications.

Retirement Benefits

- ❖ The Home Ministry said that the government has decided to extend Rs 1 lakh to a retired President and Rs 90,000 to a retired Vice-President on account of office expenses every year.
- ❖ The decisions have been taken to amend rules related to the President's Pension Rules, 1962 and the Vice-President's Pension, Housing and Other Facilities Rules, 1999.
- ❖ The salaries of the President and the Vice President were increased to Rs 5 lakh and Rs 4 lakh per month respectively four months ago.

S-400 Triumpf deal

- ❖ India has concluded price negotiations with Russia for a nearly Rs 40,000 crore deal to procure S-400 Triumpf air defence missile systems for the Indian Air Force.
- ❖ The two countries are now trying to find a way out to evade the provisions of a US law (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act - CAATSA) that seeks to punish countries and entities engaged in agreement with the defence or intelligence establishment of Russia.



**S-400 TRIUMF:
INDIA'S
AERIAL SHIELD**

The Rs 39,000 cr missile system deal with Russia secures Pak, China borders.

DESTROYS (AT 400KM RANGE) HOSTILE AIRCRAFT STEALTH FIGHTERS MISSILE DRONES TRACKS HUNDREDS OF TARGETS SIMULTANEOUSLY

- ❖ The US had announced sanctions against Russia under the stringent law for its alleged meddling in the American presidential election in 2016.
- ❖ India wants to procure the long-range missile systems to tighten its air defence mechanism, particularly along the nearly 4,000-km-long Sino-India border.

- ❖ In 2016, India and Russia had signed an agreement on the 'Triumf' interceptor-based missile system which can destroy incoming hostile aircraft, missiles and even drones at ranges of up to 400 km.
- ❖ S-400 is known as Russia's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile defence system.

NCW and Facebook

- ❖ Social networking giant Facebook said it has partnered with National Commission for Women (NCW) to launch a digital literacy programme in collaboration with the Cyber Peace Foundation (CPF).
- ❖ As part of the digital literacy programme pilot, awareness training will be conducted for 60,000 women in universities across major cities in Haryana, Delhi-NCR, Manipur, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu over a one-year period.

INTERNATIONAL

Social Media Tax – Uganda

- ❖ Uganda's Parliament passed a bill for "social media tax" imposing a daily fee of about 200 shillings for using platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, and Twitter.

Singapore Airlines

- ❖ Singapore Airlines (SIA) will launch the world's longest non-stop commercial flight between Singapore and Newark of New Jersey, USA from October 11, 2018.



A350^{XWB} ULTRA LONG RANGE Flying further than any other commercial airliner

Based on A350-900 with

Maximum Take-Off Weight **280t**

Aerodynamic Performance Improvement Package
Including extended winglets

Modified fuel system + 24,000 litres no additional tanks

Over **20 hours** of flight non-stop

Up to **9,700 nm** range

Airspace cabin for unrivalled comfort and absolute well-being

A350-900 ULR with Singapore Airlines

Launch customer

Connecting Singapore and New York on world's longest commercial flight

the **A350-900** largest customer

67 A350-900 on order

Including **7** A350-900 ULR

AIRBUS

- ❖ The airline will deploy the new Airbus A350-900 ULR for covering distance of 16,700km in up to 18 hours and 45 minutes.

ECONOMY

IOC - most profitable PSU

- ❖ Reliance Industries retains the crown being the country's most profitable company for third year in a row.
- ❖ Fuel retailer Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has for the second year in a row beaten Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) to become India's most profitable state-owned company.
- ❖ Tata Consultancy Services, India's largest software services exporter, was the second most profitable company in the country.

Microsoft – Third Most Valuable Company

- ❖ Microsoft surpassed Google's parent company Alphabet in market value, becoming the third most valuable company in the world.
- ❖ Only Apple and Amazon are first two valuable companies of the world.
- ❖ Compared with tech giants such as Amazon and Apple, Microsoft is less reliant on one particular business to generate income.
- ❖ Microsoft's valuation now stands at \$753 billion, while Alphabet is worth \$742 billion.
- ❖ Apple and Amazon lead with market caps of \$924 billion and \$783 billion respectively.

Indian payment apps in Singapore

- ❖ At the 'Business, Innovation and Community' Event at Singapore Indian Prime minister Modi has launched India's BHIM, RuPay and SBI app.
- ❖ India's RuPay digital payments system was linked up with Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS).

- ❖ RuPay users will be able to make payments at all NETS acceptance points across Singapore.
- ❖ Also, a new app-based rupee remittance mode of the SBI's Singapore branch was launched at the event
- ❖ Singapore branch of the SBI is the first to launch this new mode of remittance in collaboration with NPCI.

STATES

e-Office at UP

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh cabinet has decided to bring all state government offices under the e-Office system by August 15 to minimize the use of paper.
- ❖ e-Office is a 'product suit' developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) that helps in faster clearance of files and envisions a paper-less office.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Kendrick Lamar – Pulitzer Prize

- ❖ Kendrick Lamar won the Pulitzer Prize for music, making history as the first non-classical or jazz artist to win the prestigious prize for Music.



- ❖ Kendrick Lamar won this prize for 'DAMN', he also won Grammy award for this album.

National Spelling Bee Winner 2018

- ❖ Karthik Nemmani of Texas, was declared champion of the 2018 Scripps National Spelling Bee.
- ❖ The Karthik Nemmani emerged as a top speller from record-shattering 515 contestants at the national Spell bee, compared with 291 last year.


