

June - 1

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Shri Mahender Singh Kanyal presently Director at external affairs Headquarters, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Suriname.
- ❖ Shri S. D. Moorthy presently Deputy Secretary at Headquarters, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of South Sudan.
- ❖ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated two newly-built expressways - phase 1 of Delhi-Meerut Expressway and the Rs. 11,000 crore Eastern Peripheral Expressway, India's first smart and green highway.

NATIONAL

Clean Air India Initiative

- ❖ India and Netherlands launched Clean Air India Initiative in New Delhi.
- ❖ It aims to curb air pollution in Indian cities by promoting partnerships between Indian start-ups and companies from Netherlands.
- ❖ It also aims build network of entrepreneurs working on business solutions for cleaner air.

Surya Kiran-XIII

- ❖ The thirteenth edition of India-Nepal joint military exercise is conducted at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand from 30 May to 12 June 2018.
- ❖ The joint military exercise aims to further enhance and strengthen level of defence cooperation between the two neighbouring nations.
- ❖ Surya Kiran series of bilateral military exercises are conducted bi-annually, alternatively in India and Nepal.
- ❖ 12th edition of this exercise was held at Nepal Army Battle School (NABS) in Saljhandi, Nepal in September 2017.



INTERNATIONAL

Global Wind Summit

- ❖ The first edition of Global Wind Summit will be held in Hamburg, Germany from September 25 to 28, 2018.
- ❖ The summit will provide a public platform for energy sector experts from across globe to discuss about the innovative and green technologies for sustained wind energy making.
- ❖ It will be largest and most important meeting of the wind industry worldwide.
- ❖ India with 33GW (installed capacity) is fourth largest country after China, US and Germany in terms of wind energy installation capacity.

Global Wind Summit



RIMPAC

- ❖ United States had withdrawn invitation to Chinese navy to participate in 2018 Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) maritime exercise.
- ❖ The withdrawal was in response China's continued illegal militarisation of islands in disputed South China Sea.
- ❖ RIMPAC 2019 is the 26th exercise of its type, after first being held in 1971.
- ❖ The RIMPAC is the world's largest international maritime warfare exercise. It is held biennially near Honolulu, Hawaii (US) during June and July of even-numbered years.
- ❖ It is hosted and administered by the United States Navy's Pacific Fleet (headquartered at Pearl Harbor).



Lebanon's prime minister

- ❖ Lebanese MPs elected Saad Hariri as prime minister for a third time.
- ❖ He retains the title despite his party losing more than a third of its MPs in elections earlier this month.
- ❖ Hariri assumed the premiership after winning the backing of 111 out of 128 MPs in official consultations.
- ❖ The post of prime minister is reserved for a Sunni Muslim in Lebanon's sectarian power-sharing system.



Colombia in NATO

- ❖ Colombia has formally joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, making it the only Latin American nation in the alliance.
- ❖ The 29-nation NATO alliance reached a partnership agreement with Colombia back in May 2017, just after peace was signed with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.
- ❖ The partnership with Colombia will cooperate on global security areas like cyber and maritime security, terrorism and links to organized crime.

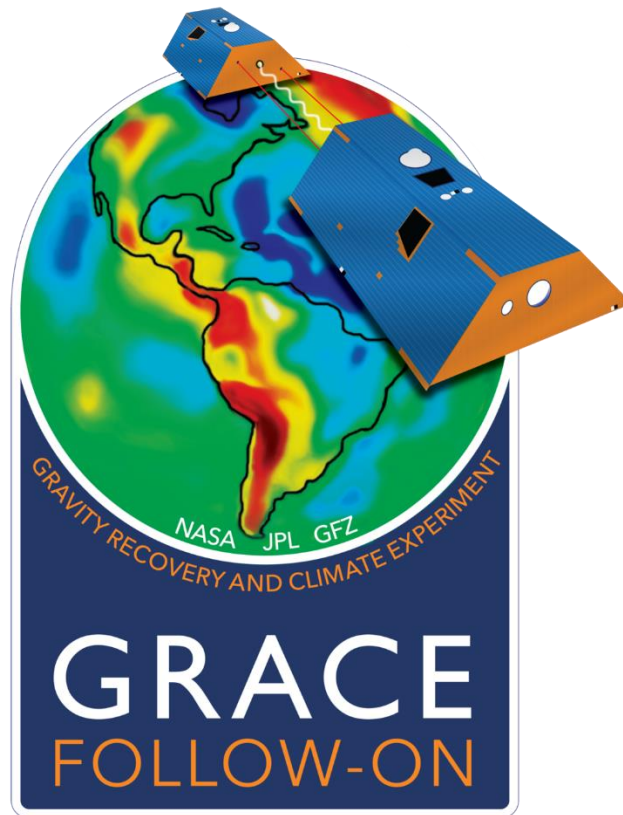
- ❖ The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an intergovernmental military alliance between 29 North American and European countries based on the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

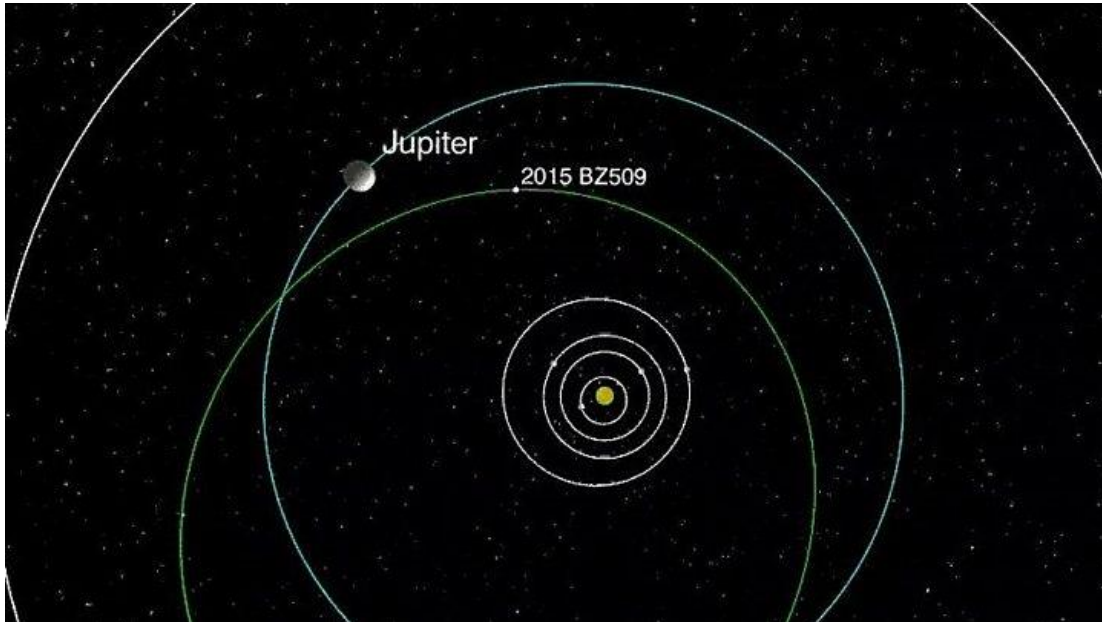
GRACE-FO satellites

- ❖ Elon Musk-led SpaceX has successfully launched twin NASA satellites GRACE-FO (Follow-On) that will track Earth's water Cycle i.e. water movement and ice melt.
- ❖ It was launched on board of SpaceX's preflown Falcon 9 Rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, US
- ❖ GRACE-FO is joint project between National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and German Research Center for Geosciences (GFZ).
- ❖ It is follow-on mission to original GRACE mission, which had mapped Earth's water and ice by measuring changes in Earth's gravity field from 2002 to 2017.



(514107) 2015 BZ₅₀₉

- ❖ Scientists have discovered an asteroid named (514107) 2015 BZ509 nestling in Jupiter's orbit that had migrated from another star system.
- ❖ It makes it first known permanent immigrant to our solar system.
- ❖ All of the planets in our Solar System, and the vast majority of other objects as well, travel around the Sun in the same direction.
- ❖ However, 2015 BZ509 is different – it moves in the opposite direction in what is known as a 'retrograde' orbit.
- ❖ The asteroid Oumuamua was actually first discovered in 2014, but after four years of tracking it, scientists were able to determine that it had arrived in our solar system some 4.5 billion years ago – just as Earth was beginning to form.
- ❖ However, it was just a tourist passing through, whereas this former exo-asteroid – given the catchy name (514107) 2015 BZ509 – is a long-term resident.



Cloud-enabled National Data Centre

- ❖ National Informatics Centre (NIC) has set up cloud-enabled National Data Centre at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ❖ It will offer round-the-clock operations with secure hosting for e-governance applications of ministries and departments.
- ❖ It is fourth cloud-enabled National Data Centre of NIC after Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune.
- ❖ NIC (Rashtriya Suchna Vigyan Kendra) is premier science & technology organisation of Government in informatics services and information and communication technology (ICT) applications.
- ❖ It is part of MeitY's Department of Electronics & Information Technology. It was established in 1976.



ENVIRONMENT

World's first fully solar energy-powered airport

- ❖ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recognised Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) in Kerala as the world's first fully solar energy-powered airport.
- ❖ The airport has 15 MW solar power plant.
- ❖ CIAL is India's first airport to be constructed in public-private-partnership (PPP) model in 1999. It is the busiest and largest airport in the state of Kerala.
- ❖ It is only PPP airport in the country that has handled more than 5 million passengers in year.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

India Innovation Award 2018

- ❖ The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) and IIT Bombay have been awarded the Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018 in the Academic Institutions category at the 2018 India Innovation Conference in Bengaluru.
- ❖ The award places IIT Bombay in the top 12 innovators in India.
- ❖ Under the Government Research Organizations category, the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) have been awarded the Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018.

Man Booker International Prize 2018

- ❖ Polish author Olga Tokarczuk (56) was awarded Man Booker International Prize 2018 which makes her first writer from Poland to win this prestigious English-language literary award.
- ❖ She won prize with English translation of her novel Flights.
- ❖ It was first published in Polish language in 2007 and was translated into English in 2017 by Jennifer Croft.
- ❖ Her literary work has won several awards, both in her home country Poland and also abroad, including Poland's most prestigious 'Nike Literary Award' twice.



Venture Capital Symposium 2018

- ❖ NITI Aayog has organized the Venture Capital Symposium 2018 in New Delhi. It was organized in collaboration with the Vision India Foundation.
 - ❖ It aims to strengthen the economic relationships between India and France.
 - ❖ The Venture Capital Symposium 2018 opens doors for French investors to explore Indian market and Indian start-ups to attain global outreach.
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