NATIONAL

New committee to bring more transparency

❖ The Union government has formed a new committee under the chairmanship of former Chief Statistician Prof. T.C.A Anant to bring more transparency in employment-related data releases.

❖ Labour bureau conducts two major surveys on employment scenario—Annual Employment-Unemployment Survey and Quarterly Employment Survey.

❖ The Annual Employment Unemployment Survey was later replaced by Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) being conducted by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI).

❖ The PLFS would not only have annual data on employment-unemployment on the rural sector but will also have quarterly data on employment-unemployment on urban sector based on larger sample size.

❖ Besides, the Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has started releasing monthly payroll data.

Swajal Scheme in 115 Aspirational districts

❖ Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation has launched Swajal Scheme in 115 Aspirational districts of India to provide clean drinking water.

❖ It will involve an outlay of Rs. 700 crores through flexi-funds under existing National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) budget.

❖ Swajal is community owned drinking water scheme or programme for sustained drinking water supply.

❖ Under it, 90% of project cost is taken care by the Government and remaining 10% is contributed by the beneficiary community.

'Rail Madad' and 'Menu on Rails'

❖ The Union Minister of Railways & Coal has launched two new mobile apps – 'Rail Madad' and 'Menu on Rails', to ease the traveling experience of the commuters.

❖ The Rail Madad app is aimed at expediting & streamlining passenger grievance redressal while the 'Menu on Rails' app will allow passengers to check the list of meals and beverages served on all type of trains and their prices.

❖ The Rail MADAD (Mobile Application for Desired Assistance During travel) app allows passengers to

- o lodge complaints through mobile app/web platform and

- o enables them to check real-time feedback on the status of redressal of their complaints.

❖ The app for the first time completely digitized the Complaint management system.

❖ It integrates RPGRAMS (Railway Passenger Grievance Redressal and Management System) developed by Northern Railway (Delhi Division).

❖ Rail MADAD also displays various helpline numbers (e.g., Security, Child helpline etc) and provides direct calling facility for immediate assistance in one easy step.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

106th Indian Science Congress

❖ The 106th Indian Science Congress will be held at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Jalandhar, Punjab.

❖ The theme for the five-day science congress is 'Future India: Science & Technology'.

❖ It will be organized by the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA), a premier scientific organization of India.

Pinaka rocket system into guided missile

❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has converted indigenous Pinaka rocket system into a precision-guided missile, with enhanced range and accuracy to hit its targets.

❖ It is jointly developed by
  • Pune based Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE),
  • Defense Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad and
  • Research Centre, Imarat (RCI).

❖ It is fired using multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL) and the rocket has been named after Pinaka, the bow of Lord Shiva.

❖ It already has been inducted into Indian Army and Pinaka Mark I was used in 1999 Kargil conflict.

❖ Its initial version (Pinaka Mark I) was upgraded into Pinaka Mark II, with an enhanced range of 70 to 80 km with a five-meter accuracy compared to Mark I, with a range of 40 km.

'UTS on mobile' app

❖ The Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) has developed a mobile-based application called 'UTS on mobile' for cashless train ticketing.

❖ The UTS on mobile application enables booking and cancellation of unreserved tickets, issue, and renewal of season and platform tickets, check and load R-wallet balance and lets to maintain user profile management and booking history.

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