

June – 20

NATIONAL

India BPO Promotion Scheme

- ❖ Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) is planning to expand its India BPO Promotion Scheme to 1 lakh seats from current 48,000 seats.
- ❖ It will also set up 5th and India's largest National data center (NDC) in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh with a capacity of 5 lakh virtual servers.
- ❖ NDCs host government websites, services, and apps are currently operational at four locations Pune, Hyderabad, Delhi, and Bhubaneswar.



- ❖ India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) was approved under Digital India Programme to incentivize BPO/IT- ITES operations sector in the country.
- ❖ It was launched in 2014. The scheme aims to incentivize establishment of BPO firms and their extension to Tier II and Tier III cities (as per census 2011)
- ❖ The Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous society of MeitY is the nodal implementing agency of the scheme.

ICGS Rani Rashmoni

- ❖ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned fast patrol vessel (FPV) ICGS Rani Rashmoni, in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ It is fifth and last ship to be commissioned in the series of fast patrol vessel (FPV) project of ICG.

- ❖ ICGS Rani Rashmoni has been designed and built by Hindustan Ship Yard Ltd. It is named after legendary Rani Rashmoni of Kolkata.
- ❖ It can perform multifarious tasks such as surveillance, search and rescue, interdiction, anti-smuggling and anti-poaching operations.

INTERNATIONAL

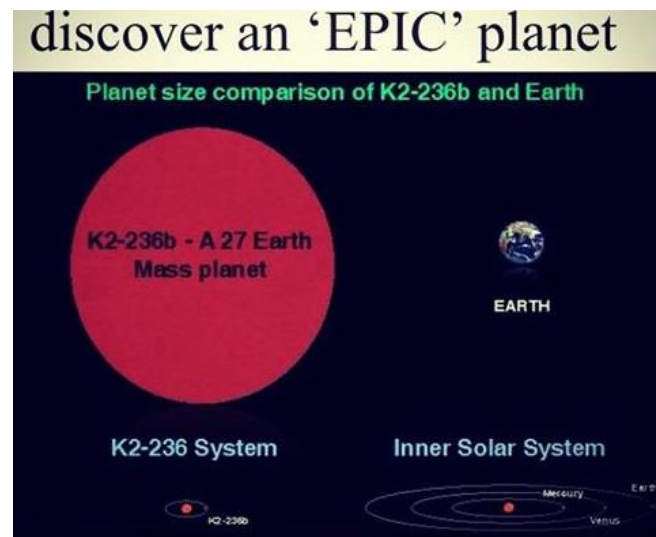
India-US colloquium

- ❖ The second edition India-US colloquium on Earth Observations and Sciences for Society and Economy was inaugurated at CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-NIO), Dona Paula, Goa.
- ❖ The colloquium is being organized by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)-NIO and US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

EPIC Planet

- ❖ Scientists from Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad have discovered for first time distant planet revolving around Sun-like star.
- ❖ Both the planet and the star have been named EPIC.
- ❖ The EPIC planet is six times bigger than Earth and mass is about 27 times Earth's and revolves around host about 600 light years away.
- ❖ EPIC planet is smaller in size compared to Saturn and but is bigger than Neptune. Its 60% mass may be made up of heavy elements like ice, silicates, and iron.
- ❖ The planet is unlikely to be inhabitable because of its high surface temperature of around 600°C.



- ❖ EPIC was found circling very close to the Sun-like star, going around it once in about 19.5 days
- ❖ PRL is supported mainly by the Department of Space, whose arm ISRO is.
- ❖ Significantly, the discovery was made using a PRL-designed spectrograph, PARAS, to measure and confirm the mass of the new planet.
- ❖ PARAS is first of its kind spectrograph in the country which can measure the mass of planet going around the star.
- ❖ It is integrated with 1.2-metre telescope located at PRL's Gurushikhar Observatory in Mount Abu, Rajasthan.

Lithium Ion (Li-Ion) Cell Technology

- ❖ ISRO's rocket sciences arm Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) has decided to transfer its own in-house lithium-ion (Li-ion) cell technology to successful Indian industries and start-ups on a non-exclusive basis in automobiles for Rs. 1 crore.
- ❖ The initiative aims to accelerate development of indigenous electric vehicle (EV) industry and reduce the dependence of imported lithium-ion cell technology.

Power point

The advantages of Lithium ion batteries

- **High energy density:** This is because lithium is a highly reactive element, and a lot of energy can be stored in its atomic bonds. This is a clear advantage over a lead-acid battery or a nickel-metal hydride battery



- **Does not need prolonged charge when new.** Lithium ion cells hold their charge longer than other alternatives

- **It has a relatively low self-discharge rate,** less than half that of nickel-based batteries

- **Zero Maintenance** Lithium ion cells can handle several charge-discharge cycles without any hassles



ENVIRONMENT

10th Meeting of Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GAELF)

- ❖ The 10th Meeting of Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GAELF) was held in New Delhi, India.
- ❖ It was inaugurated by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J P Nadda.
- ❖ This is the second time India hosted a meeting of GAELF.
- ❖ Earlier in 2002, India had hosted the second meeting of GAELF.
- ❖ GAELF is an alliance of partners from 72 LF endemic national country Programmes, NGOs, private sectors, academic and research institutes and international development agencies that assists WHO's Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis.
- ❖ It was formed in 2001, since then it is being held biennially.

Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GPELF)

- ❑ In 1997, the World Health Assembly resolved to eliminate lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem (WHA resolution 50.29).
- ❑ In 2000, the GPELF was launched by WHO

Goal: Global elimination by 2020

Aim 1. *Stop the spread of infection: interrupt transmission by MDA*

Aim 2. *Reduce the suffering caused by the disease: morbidity management and disability prevention*

STATES

'Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana'

- ❖ Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik announced a health assurance scheme 'Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana' that will benefit around 3.5 crore people belonging to over 70 lakh families in the state.
- ❖ Under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, up to 5 lakh worth of secondary and tertiary cashless healthcare assistance will be provided per family, per annum

- ❖ The assistance of Rs 500 would be provided to all pregnant women and infants who visit public health facilities.



LANDMARK INITIATIVES FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

Biju Swasthya Kalyana Yojana

Secondary & tertiary **cashless** health care assistance up to **₹5 lakh p.a.**

Benefit to **70 lakh** families in the state

Free Services at Government hospitals

All health services **free of cost** in Government health institutions from **district to sub-centre level**

Will cover over **4.84 crore** patient visits

Drop-Back Assistance

Drop back assistance of **₹500** to all **pregnant women & infants** visiting public health facilities

Will benefit over **6.50 lakh pregnant women & sick infants**

SPORTS

2018 Gouden Spike meeting

- ❖ Gavit Murali Kumar clinched gold in men's 10,000-metre race at the Gouden Spike meeting in Leiden, The Netherlands.
- ❖ The 21-year-old Kumar, hailing from Gujarat, clocked a personal best of 28 minutes 43.34 seconds. It was the best by an Indian in the ongoing season.
- ❖ It was also the second-fastest time by an Indian ever in the distance race. Before him, Surendra Singh set a national record (28 minutes 02.89 sec) at Vigo, Spain in 2008.
- ❖ The Gouden Spike is one of the top meetings in The Netherlands.

Kia Super League

- ❖ Smriti Mandhana will become the first Indian player to appear in the Kia Super League, the women's cricket super league in England.
- ❖ Smriti was signed by Western Storm and will represent the side in the upcoming edition of the tournament.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Sustainable Gastronomy Day – 18 June

- ❖ The World Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed every year on June 18 across the world.
- ❖ Gastronomy is a study of the relationship between food and culture.
- ❖ The day acknowledges gastronomy as cultural expression related to the natural and cultural diversity of the world.
- ❖ The World Sustainable Gastronomy Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by adopting a resolution in December 2016.

MISCELLANEOUS

European Union Film Festival (EUFF) 2018

- ❖ The 23rd edition of European Union Film Festival (EUFF) will premiere in New Delhi at the Siri Fort Auditorium.
- ❖ The European Union Film Festival is organized by Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India partnering with the Delegation of the European Union and embassies of EU Member States.
