

June – 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Union Cabinet has approved the renewal of long-term agreements (LTAs) for export of iron ore (lumps and fines) of grade +64% Fe content to Japan and South Korea for another five years (2018 to 2023) through state-owned trading firm MMTC.

NATIONAL

North Eastern Council

- ❖ The Union cabinet on Wednesday approved the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) proposal to nominate Union Home Minister as Ex-Officio Chairman of North Eastern Council (NEC).
- ❖ NEC is a statutory body with the Governors and Chief Ministers of all the eight North-Eastern states as its member.
- ❖ The Minister of State, Ministry of DoNER would serve as the Vice Chairman of the council.
- ❖ NEC was established under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971 as an apex level body for securing balanced and coordinated development and facilitating coordination with the States.

INTERNATIONAL

President of Colombia

- ❖ Conservative candidate Ivan Duque has won Colombia's presidential runoff election by defeating Leftist candidate and former mayor of Bogota Gustavo Petro, obtaining 54 percent of the vote.
- ❖ Duque's running mate became the first woman ever elected to the nation's vice presidency.
- ❖ The elections were the first to be held since a 2016 peace deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).
- ❖ Duque is a social conservative who opposes gay marriage, euthanasia and the decriminalization of drugs. He will become Colombia's youngest president.

Social Enterprise Development Programme

- ❖ Thimpu-based SAARC Development Fund (SDF) will soon be launching a social enterprise development programme (SEDP) to fund 80 entities annually across the 8-member states including India.
- ❖ The programme will be implemented in all SAARC member states with the objective of identifying and building social enterprises by using a mix of grants and concessional returnable capital.
- ❖ SDF was established by heads of all eight SAARC member states during 16th SAARC summit at Thimphu, Bhutan in April 2010.
- ❖ Its Governing Council comprises finance ministers of these eight countries. SDF's Secretariat is located at Thimphu, capital of Bhutan
- ❖ It is the successor of South Asian Development Fund (SADF), which was launched in 1996 by merging two existing facilities called
 - SAARC Fund for Regional Projects (SFRP) and
 - SAARC Regional Fund.
- ❖ SDF was created as umbrella financial mechanism for all SAARC developmental projects and programmes.

ECONOMY

fDi Report 2018

- ❖ The U.S. has surpassed India to become the top destination for greenfield FDI investment in 2017.
- ❖ According to the fDi Report 2018, compiled by FDI Intelligence, a division of The Financial Times the number of greenfield FDI projects in India during the year fell sharply by 21% to 637.
- ❖ India had maintained the numero uno slot in greenfield FDI investment in 2015 and 2016.
- ❖ However, in 2017, the U.S. reclaimed the spot from India, recording \$87.4 billion of announced Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
- ❖ In the Asia and Pacific region, China was on top in terms of FDI in a total number of new projects and capital investment, followed by India.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Glonass-M satellite

- ❖ Russia has successfully launched Glonass-M positioning satellite on board of Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket from the Plesetsk space center.
- ❖ The GLONASS (Russian acronym for Global Navigation Satellite System) network provides real-time positioning data for surface, sea and airborne objects around the globe, at an accuracy reportedly on par with the U.S. Global Positioning System.
- ❖ With this launch, there are now 26 Glonass satellites in orbit.
- ❖ It was built by Reshetnev Information Satellite Systems (formerly NPO-PM). It has a design life of 7 years which is significantly higher than that of the previous generation of Glonass satellites.
- ❖ The heart of the satellite is Caesium atomic clock that provides accurate timing reference needed to generate navigation data.
- ❖ Glonass is Russian Satellite Navigation System considered as a counterpart to GPS of US, Galileo of European Union (EU) and Beidou of China.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Star Pick Brand Ambassador

- ❖ Indian football team captain Sunil Chhetri was named brand ambassador of online fantasy sports platform StarPick.
- ❖ StarPick also announced the launch of the 2018 Football World Cup online platform, offering prizes worth Rs 20 crore.

Miss India 2018

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Anukreethy Vas was named Miss India at the 55th Femina Miss India 2018 in Mumbai.
- ❖ Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar, who won the title last year, crowned Anukreethy, who will go on to represent India at Miss World.
- ❖ Haryana's Meenakshi Chaudhary stood second while Andhra Pradesh's Shreya Rao Kamavarapu ranked third.

- ❖ The panel of judges for the evening included cricketer Irfan Pathan, K.L. Rahul along with Bollywood actors Malaika Arora, Bobby Deol and Kunal Kapoor.
- ❖ The judges' panel also included
 - Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar, who along with
 - Miss United Continents 2017 Sana Dua, and
 - Miss Intercontinental 2017 Priyanka Kumaricrowned their respective successors.
- ❖ The two runners-up will represent the country at Miss Grand International 2018 and Miss United Continents 2018 respectively.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought – 17 June

- ❖ The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (WDCDD) is observed every year on June 17 across to world to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification.
- ❖ The day aims to remind everyone that land degradation neutrality is achievable through problem-solving, strong community involvement and co-operation at all levels.
- ❖ The 2018 Theme of WDCDD is “Land has true value – invest in it.”
- ❖ The global observance of WDCD2018 was hosted by Government of Ecuador.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) had designated June 17 as World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought in 1994 through resolution.
- ❖ It was observed for the first time in 1995. The date marks adaptation of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) by UNGA in 1994.

Goa Revolution Day - 18 June

- ❖ Goa, an erstwhile Portuguese colony, will celebrate Goa Revolution Day on June 18 to commemorate the saga of the struggle of the people of Goa for freedom.
- ❖ On 18 June 1946, freedom fighter Ram Manohar Lohia gave a clarion call to the people of the state to resist the oppressive policies of the colonialists in 1946.
- ❖ Goa was liberated from Portuguese rule on December 19, 1961 after 450 years.
