

May - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Subhash C. Khuntia has taken charge as Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- ❖ US-based retail giant Walmart has closed the largest e-commerce deal in the world by acquiring a majority stake in the Indian e-commerce platform Flipkart.
 - According to reports, Walmart will acquire 77% stake in Flipkart for \$16 billion, valuing the home-grown start-up at around \$20.8 billion.
- ❖ Noted coach and umpire Arun Bhardwaj will head the Centre of Excellence for Cricket (CEC).
- ❖ Google has appointed Nitin Bawankule as the country head for Google Cloud India, a cloud platform services to businesses in India.
- ❖ The 2018 World Robot Conference (WRC) will be held in Beijing, China in August 2018. The event will see over 12,000 competing teams and 50,000 participants from more than 10 countries and regions.
- ❖ US President Donald Trump's administration has cancelled NASA's Carbon Monitoring System (CMS) programme citing reasons of budget constraints and higher priorities within science budget.
 - NASA's CMS Programme was meant to track carbon and methane, key greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.
- ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has put state-run lender Dena Bank under prompt corrective action (PCA) framework. It has barred Dena Bank from extending fresh credit in view of deteriorating financial health due to mounting non-performing assets (NPAs) and mounting losses.
 - It makes Dena Bank first lender to face curbs on lending under PCA framework.
- ❖ Scientists have discovered world's second oldest grain of magmatic zircon (a mineral that contains traces of radioactive isotopes) from Champua from Singhbhum rock sample in Odisha's Kendujhar district. It is an estimated 4,240 million years old. It is oldest magmatic zircon on earth.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Atomic clock for indigenous navigation satellites

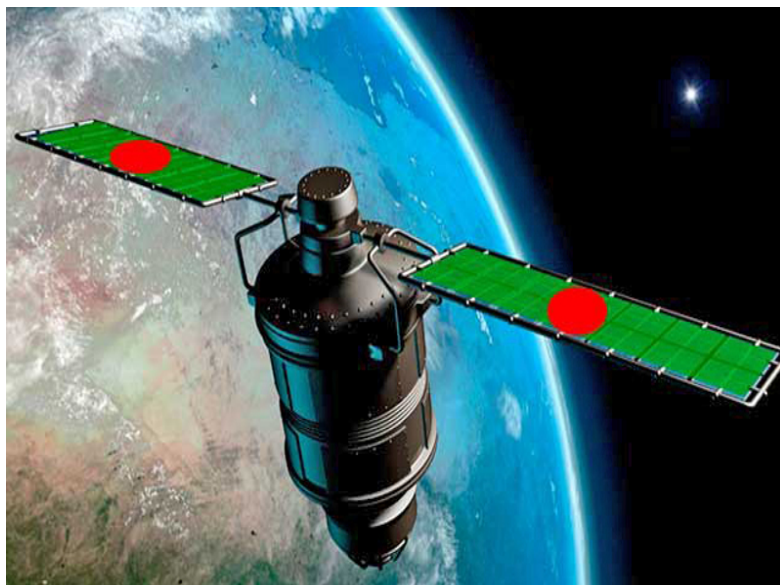
- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed an atomic clock that will be used in navigation satellites to measure precise location data.
- ❖ Till now, the space agency has been importing the atomic clocks for its navigation satellites from the European aerospace manufacturer Astrium.
- ❖ The atomic clock has been developed by Ahmedabad-based Space Applications Centre (SAC) and is currently undergoing a series of qualification tests.
- ❖ The time difference between the atomic clocks of different satellites positioned at different orbits is used to measure the accurate positioning of a navigation receiver or an object on the Earth.

Note

- ❖ A navigation satellite is fixed with three atomic clocks. Besides atomic clocks, a navigation satellite also has crystal clocks but they are not as accurate as atomic clocks.

Bangabandhu Satellite-1

- ❖ Bangladesh's first communication satellite Bangabandhu-1 will be launched by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from Kennedy Space Center Launch Complex 39A.



- ❖ It is designed to provide wide range of broadcast and communication services throughout Bangladesh.
- ❖ It has been built by Thales Alenia Space, a Franco-Italian aerospace manufacturer.
- ❖ It is named after Bangladesh's "Father of the Nation"- Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- ❖ It will provide citizens of Bangladesh Internet connectivity, phone services, radio, backhaul, direct-to-home (DTH) TV services and other communication related services.

STATES

NCBN app

- ❖ In order to implement effective governance in the state, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launched the official 'NCBN' (Nara Chandrababu Naidu) App in the ongoing Collector's conference being held at Amaravati.
- ❖ The mobile application will notify people in real-time with news updates and will also act as a direct platform for the common people to interact with the government.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

‘Excellent Woman of Excellence’

- ❖ Nisha Bhalla, a holistic coach & consultant from Mumbai, has been conferred with the ‘Excellent Woman of Excellence’ award for her spiritual service at the Women Economic Forum (WEF) 2018 in Delhi.



- ❖ The WEF is the largest global gathering of women entrepreneurs and leaders worldwide. This annual event recognizes the most successful women across all fields, with guests like Nobel laureate Ouided Bouchamaoui.
- ❖ Nisha conducts holistic courses at her institute ‘Sai Institute of Kosmic Sciences’ in Mumbai.
- ❖ She has received numerous national level awards in this field over the years.
- ❖ She had also received the All Maharashtra Maheshwari Trophy at the age of 12, for her work in aid of the NAB (National Association for the Blind), in 1984.
