

July - 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Turkey will sell four corvette warships to Pakistan which will be the country's largest single export deal. Turkey signed a memorandum of understanding to build four corvettes for Pakistan under the MiLGEM project last year.
 - Two of the corvettes will be built in Istanbul while the other two in Pakistan's Karachi.
- ❖ West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced the 'one person, one car' policy in an attempt to cut the costs incurred by the state over travel expenses of ministers and bureaucrats.
- ❖ Further she mandated economy class travel in low-cost airlines for all domestic air trips and the foreign travels will be sanctioned only by her.
- ❖ The world's first all-digital art museum has opened at the MORI Building Digital Art Museum in Japan's Tokyo.
- ❖ Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched his 'Chai pe Charcha' or 'conversation over tea' campaign and interacted with scores of party workers and people at different places in the State.
- ❖ The National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom), India's premier software lobby, has opened a Center of Excellence (CoE) for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence in Bengaluru.
- ❖ Union Minister of State for Culture(I/c), Dr. Mahesh Shrama, inaugurated exhibition titled "Arth - art for earth" at IGNCA, New Delhi. **'ARTH - ART FOR EARTH'** by Manav Gupta consists of "**Excavations in Hymns of Clay**" - a suite of environmental art installations by Manav Gupta weaving all of them with a storyline and poetry.
- ❖ The NSG (National Security Guard) is the first central paramilitary force to opt for e-ticketing instead of the railway warrant under an agreement signed with the IRCTC. This system will eliminate the need for carrying railway warrants by the NSG personnel.
 - The IRCTC is also developing an e-ticketing-cum-warrant management system for the Central Reserve Police Force.
- ❖ Justice L Narasimha Reddy who retired as the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court in July 2015 has been appointed the Chairman of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT).

- Justice Reddy will take over from Justice Dinesh Gupta and he will hold office for a little over three years.

NATIONAL

Animals - as 'legal persons'

- ❖ In a first, the Uttarakhand High Court has accorded the status of 'legal person or entity' to the animals in the state.
- ❖ It ruled that "they have a distinct persona with corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person."
- ❖ A Division Bench of Justices Rajiv Sharma and Lokpal Singh bestowed the unique status on animal kingdom.
- ❖ The entire animal kingdom, including avian and aquatic ones, are declared as legal entities having a distinct persona with corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person.

ECONOMY

Global Banks' 'High Risk' List

- ❖ The main custodian banks shared a list of 25 countries named as "high-risk jurisdictions" with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently.
- ❖ China, UAE, Cyprus and Mauritius, along with 21 other countries have been named as "high-risk jurisdictions" by global banks acting as custodians for foreign funds.
- ❖ Large investors and beneficial owners of these funds entering India through high-risk jurisdictions will be highly scrutinized.
- ❖ Non-resident Indians and persons of Indian origin will face more obstacles in participating in funds set up in these countries for trading on Indian exchanges.
- ❖ SEBI - registered foreign portfolio funds invest in India through 56 countries. Of these, 25 are now considered 'high risk'.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO's first 'pad abort' test

- ❖ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced that the first 'pad abort' test critical for a future human space mission was conducted successfully at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- ❖ The PAT (pad abort test) is the first in a series of tests to qualify a crew escape system technology of a manned mission in the future.

Crew Escape System

- ❖ It is an emergency escape measure to quickly pull the astronaut cabin along with crew out to a safe distance from launch vehicle during a launch abort.

Safety first

A look at ISRO's new system meant to save lives of astronauts in an exigency

Pad abort is the first of a series of crew rescue solutions to ascertain the trustworthiness and efficiency of the Crew Escape System

- The U.S., Russia and China have their own crew escape system in place

Thursday's test: During the test, the crew capsule was ejected after reaching a height of 2.7 km

- The 12.6-tonne capsule landed in the Bay of Bengal and was recovered 2.9 km away from the Sriharikota launch centre

GST 'Verify App'

- ❖ The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has developed and launched a mobile app named 'GST Verify' to protect interest of consumers.
- ❖ The application is to verify if the person collecting GST from the consumer is eligible to collect it or not.
- ❖ It also provides the details of the person / company collecting GST.

ENVIRONMENT

First BS-VI engine certificate

- ❖ ICAT (ICAT - International Centre for Automotive Technology) has completed the first BS-VI certification for a heavy-duty engine model for M/s Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicle Limited.
- ❖ The engine has been developed and manufactured indigenously by Volvo Eicher in India.
- ❖ It is much ahead of the implementation date of 1st April 2020 for rolling out of Bharat Stage-VI norms in the country.
- ❖ ICAT is the first of new world class centres established under the National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRiP).
- ❖ It is under the administrative control of Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises.
- ❖ By moving to BS-VI, the country will be using the highest specifications of fuel standard available in the world right now.



EFFORTS TO CONTROL EMISSIONS

India embarked on a formal emission control regime in 1991. Here is a brief history of the country's efforts to cut vehicle emission.

1991-92: The first stage of mass emission norms came into force for petrol vehicles in 1991 and in 1992 for diesel vehicles.

1995: From April 1995, the government made fitment of catalytic converters compulsory in new petrol-fuelled passenger cars sold in the four metros of Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai, along with the supply of Unleaded Petrol (ULP). Availability of ULP was extended to 42 major cities and now it is available across the country.

2000-01: In 2000, passenger cars and commercial vehicles met Euro I equivalent India 2000 norms. Euro II equivalent Bharat Stage-II (BS-II) norms were in force from 2001 in four metros—Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

2002: The first auto fuel policy was announced in

August 2002. It laid down the emission and fuel roadmap up to 2010. As per the policy, four-wheelers in 13 metro cities moved to BS-III emission norms from April 2005 and the rest of the country to BS-II.

2010: BS-IV for 13 metro cities was implemented from April 2010 and the rest of the country moved to BS-III. It has now been extended to more than 50 cities.

2014: The second version of the fuel policy—Auto Fuel Policy 2025—was submitted to the oil and gas ministry. It lays down the emission and fuel roadmap up to 2025 and envisages BS-IV roll out across the country by 2017 in a phased manner, with BS-V emissions in 2021 and BS-VI from 2024. The proposal is yet to be accepted by the government and notified.

STATES

'Poshan Abhiyan' in Gujarat

- ❖ Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani launched 'Poshan Abhiyan' - a statewide mission to eradicate malnutrition among children by providing them nutritious food through Anganwadi centres.
- ❖ He also launched 'Purna' project to eliminate malnutrition among girls in the age group of 14 to 18, at an allocated cost of Rs 270 crore.
- ❖ Full form of PURNA - Prevention of Under Nutrition and Reduction of Nutritional Anaemia among Adolescent Girls.
- ❖ Nationwide Poshan Mission was launched by PM from Rajasthan on March 8, 2018.

Rani George Panel

- ❖ The Kerala government has constituted an expert panel comprising eminent writers and language experts to choose an official song for the state.



- ❖ Rani George, the Cultural Department Secretary, would be the convenor of the panel.
- ❖ While eminent critic M Leelavathi, poet Ezhachery Ramachandran, M M Basheer, M R Raghava Warriar and K P Mohanan would be the members of it.
- ❖ The expert panel would select a suitable song from among the entries received and shortlisted by the Akademi.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Sports Journalist Day (WSJD) – 02 July

- ❖ The World Sports Journalists Day (WSJD) is observed every year on July 2 to mark the services of sports journalists for the promotion of sports.
- ❖ The purpose of the day is to encourage sports journalists to strive for excellence in their work and to set an example to the world.

World Zoonoses Day – 06 July

- ❖ The World Zoonoses Day is observed every year on July 6 to create awareness on zoonotic diseases, how to prevent them and what actions to take when exposed.
- ❖ The word zoonoses has been derived from the Greek words zoon (animal) and nosos (ailment). As per the veterinary doctors, there are about 150 known zoonotic diseases.
- ❖ Prominent zoonotic diseases are tuberculosis, cat scratch fever, tick paralysis, roundworms, hookworms, scabies and rabies.
