

October - 06

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC) presented the Annual Best Teacher Award 2019 to G. Thangaraj, a teacher at Chennai Corporation school.
 - He was awarded for creating awareness among children for over 2 decades.
- ❖ Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan informed that from 2020, all 15 All India AIIMS and JIPMER, Puducherry, will admit students in MBBS/BDS courses through NEET-UG scores.
 - Since they are Institutes of National Importance they were earlier exempted from NEET and were eligible to conduct their own national-level entrance examination.
- ❖ Union Government plans to bring non-banking finance companies (NBFC) within the ambit of a modified version of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- ❖ In a move that will enable more borrowers to avail loans from microfinance institutions, the Reserve Bank of India has decided to raise the lending limit per borrower from ₹1 lakh to ₹1.25 lakh.
- ❖ India spinner Ravindra Jadeja picked up his 200th Test wicket and became the fastest left-arm bowler to reach the milestone. (44th Test Match)
- ❖ World Dyslexia awareness day is observed every year on October 4. Dyslexia is a learning disorder.
- ❖ Olympic Champion Dalilah Mohammed of USA broke her own record in the 400 metres hurdles event of the IAAF World Athletics Championships 2019 held at Khalifa Stadium, Qatar.
 - She won gold with a record time of 52.16 seconds.
- ❖ “Tamil Nadu’s Quest For Gold”, a book that provides a comprehensive look into the modern history of sports in Tamilnadu, written by the late historian and chronicler S.Mutiah has been launched.

TAMIL NADU


Private Maintained e-buses

- ❖ All 525 electric buses to be soon operated in Tamil Nadu will be owned and run by a private bidder.
- ❖ They will not be operated by State Transport Corporations (STC).

- ❖ There will be no outright bus purchase by the state government.
- ❖ Instead a gross cost contract (GCC) will be signed between STCs and the successful bidder.
- ❖ FAME-II (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles) mandates a GCC to be signed between the respective state transport corporation and the operator (successful bidder).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has eight STCs, including MTC, Chennai.
- ❖ The cost of maintenance for electric buses is much lower than diesel ones. Energy consumption cost is `25/km for diesel buses and `7/km for e-buses.

Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation	Number of buses	Assured kilometres	GOING GREEN: Interior of an electric bus that was flagged off by Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K Palanisamy in August this year
Villupuram	50	6 lakh	
Salem	50	7.2 lakh	
Coimbatore	200	7.84 lakh	
Kumbakonam	125	6.6 lakh – 7.2 lakh	
Madurai	100	7.2 lakh	

SPECIFICATIONS		
TWO MODELS 9-metre length > Seating capacity 32 > Standing capacity 20 12-metre length > Seating capacity 40 > Standing capacity 30	Successful bidder will supply one bus in each category for a one-week trial Cost ₹90 lakh - 1.7 crore Range 150-300 km for every charge	TIMELINE Sale of tender September 24 Pre-bid meeting October 10 Last date for submitting bids and opening date October 24
TN'S FIRST GROSS CROSS CONTRACT (GCC) > There will be no outright purchase > A Gross Cost Contract (GCC) will help govt understand technology better without risks	WHAT IS GCC? > Bus will be owned by the operator (successful bidder) and not state transport corporation > Bus will be operated by bidder's crew and not STC employees > Agreement will be signed on routes and fares > STC will collect ticket fares from passengers and pay the operator for every kilometre	KEY CHALLENGES > Opposition from unions as reported in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana > Enforcing the contract; getting STCs on board



NATIONAL

Google Lists Public Toilets

- ❖ In a fillip to Swachh Bharat Mission, Google Maps now lists over 57,000 public toilets in over 2,300 cities across the country.

- ❖ The company announced this on the eve of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.
- ❖ Adding public toilets to Google Maps was initially launched as a pilot in New Delhi, Bhopal, and Indore in 2016.
- ❖ Google had collaborated with the Swachh Bharat Mission and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

First Private Train

- ❖ India's first private train Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express started its commercial run on October 5.
- ❖ It becomes the first train in the country to be entirely run by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation
- ❖ For the first time, IRCTC is also offering a free insurance of ₹25 lakh to the passengers travelling in the train.

Audio Odigos – Tourism App

- ❖ On the second day of nationwide tourism initiative "Paryatan Parv 2019", the Ministry of Tourism launched the Audio Guide facility called "Audio Odigos".
- ❖ The facility is available for 12 sites of India (including Iconic Sites).
- ❖ The Audio Odigos app contains an inbuilt map of the site for a smooth navigation during the tour.
- ❖ Listeners will be offered various versions of history like Synopsis, Detailed History and Podcasts.
- ❖ The audio can be chosen in their preferred language & version of the history.

Sarbat-Da-Bhala Express: 550th Gurupurab

- ❖ Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal flagged off the extension of New Delhi - Ludhiana Intercity Express upto Lohian Khas, Punjab.
- ❖ It has renamed the train as "Sarbat Da Bhala" Express.
- ❖ The new train will serve the Sikh pilgrims visiting Sultanpur Lodhi on 550th Birthday of Guru Nanak ji.
- ❖ After Nanakana Sahib (now in Pakistan), Sultanpur Lodhi is the most related place to life of the first Sikh Guru.
- ❖ The name of the train reflects the teaching of Guru Nanak ji which symbolises goodness of the humanity.

New Delhi-Katra 'Vande Bharat' Express

- ❖ Union Minister for Home Affairs, Amit Shah flagged off the New Delhi-Katra 'Vande Bharat' Express in New Delhi.
- ❖ Katra is a small town in Reasi district in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ It is located 42 km from the city of Jammu and in the foothills of the Trikuta Mountains, where the holy shrine of Vaishno Devi is located.
- ❖ The Banganga River passes through the town.
- ❖ The train service is expected to give a boost to the “religious tourism” as many Hindu pilgrims are expected to visit Vaishno Devi Temple.

Exercise Nomadic Elephant

- ❖ 14th edition of Indo – Mongolian joint military training, Exercise Nomadic Elephant-XIV commenced from October 5th.
- ❖ The exercise will be conducted from 05th to 18th at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Indian Army is being represented by a contingent of a battalion of Rajaputana Rifles.
- ❖ Nomadic Elephant-XIV is aimed at training troops in counter insurgency & counter terrorism operations under the United Nations mandate.

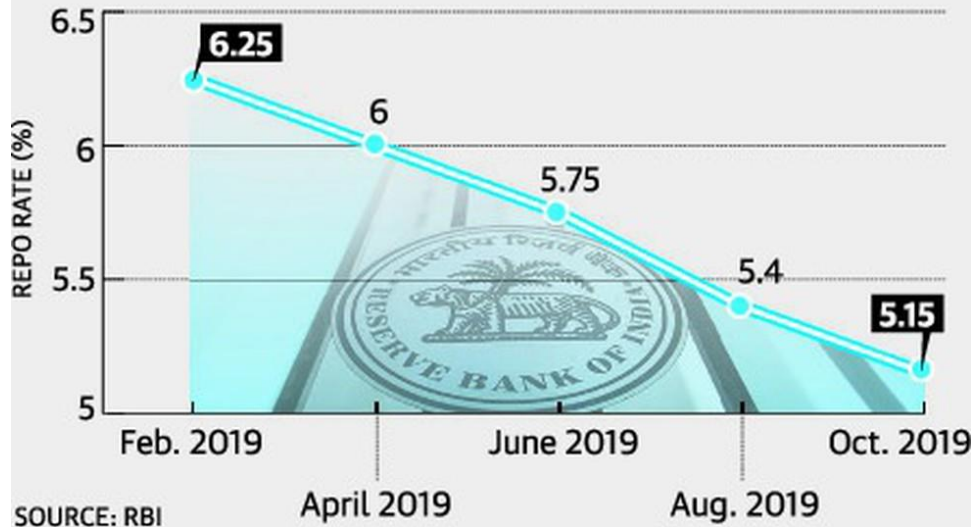
ECONOMY

Monetary Policy Committee Review

- ❖ The Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI has announced cut in the key policy rates.
- ❖ For the fifth consecutive time this calendar year, the central bank cut the repo rate by 25 bps and the reverse repo by 25 bps (100 bps = 1 per cent).
- ❖ Now the repo rate stands at 5.15 per cent and reverse repo rate at 4.90 per cent.
- ❖ It also revised its growth forecast for the current financial from 6.9% to 6.1%.

Free fall

The RBI made another rate cut on Friday, the fifth in as many policy review meetings, to boost a slowing economy



STATES

First e-waste clinic: Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ The Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have joined hands to set up the country's first e-waste clinic in Bhopal.
- ❖ The clinic is being conceived in compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- ❖ This would enable segregation, processing and disposal of waste from both household and commercial units.
- ❖ Electronic waste will be collected door-to-door or could be deposited directly at the clinic in exchange for a fee.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Animal Day – October 4

- ❖ World Animal Day is an international day of action for animal rights and welfare.
- ❖ It is celebrated annually on October 4.



- ❖ Cynologist Heinrich Zimmermann organized the first World Animal Day on 24 March 1925 at Berlin, Germany.
- ❖ Then it was moved to October 4th which is also the feast day of Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.



Wildlife Week India: October 2 - 8

- ❖ Wildlife Week is celebrated every year in India between October 2 and 8.
- ❖ The annual theme of the campaign is to promote the preservation of fauna – i.e. animal life.
- ❖ Wildlife Week was conceptualized in 1952 with the overall goal of raising awareness to safeguard the lives of wildlife through critical action.

