

October - 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Odisha Government is all set to partner Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), co-founded by Nobel laureates Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, for targeted intervention in specific social sectors.
 - It is being done under Odisha Government's 5T Initiatives which look at transformative action.
- ❖ A group of Polish holidaymakers were one of the first non-religious foreign tourists who visited Saudi Arabia's Masmak Fort.
 - Developing tourism industry is one of the key pillars of Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 reform programme.
- ❖ The insurance regulator IRDAI has constituted a top-level panel to re-look into the set of existing norms on Re-insurance, Investment, Foreign Re-insurance Branches (FRBs) and Llyods India.
 - The 9-member committee will be headed by Mrs TR Alamelu, member to review the regulations, circulars and guidelines issued earlier.
- ❖ Alberto Fernández of the Justicialist Party won the presidency of Argentina fighting against incumbent president Mauricio Macri of PRO Party.
 - Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, one of Argentina's most popular presidents during her two terms from 2007 to 2015, has been voted back into office as Vice-President.
- ❖ Salem G. Periyasamy, the bowler who has vision only in one eye and adjudged best bowler for his performance in TNPL, has been selected to play in Tamilnadu side in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament to be held at Trivandrum.

TAMIL NADU

Law on Contract Farming - First State

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has become the first State in the country to enact a law on contract farming.
- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act.
- ❖ The law would safeguard the interests of farmers during times of bumper crop or when market prices fluctuate.
- ❖ They would be paid a pre-determined price, which had been arrived at the time of signing agreements with buyers.

Implemented by

- ❖ A new six-member body, called the Tamil Nadu State Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Authority.
- ❖ The Agreements would have to be registered with 'designated officers' from the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business.

Exception

- ❖ Any produce, banned by the Centre or State government or the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, would not be covered under contract farming.

How it benefits farmers



<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ It ensures buyers to get assured supply at predetermined price	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ activities such as supply of material inputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ All contracts will be registered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Tamil Nadu State Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Authority will be set up to ensure proper implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Nature of ownership of farm lands will remain intact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dispute Settlement Committees will be formed at the level of revenue sub-division. District Collectors and Authority will function as appellate and review authorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Contracts will cover only purchase of produce. It also allows inclusion of production	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits have been brought under law's ambit

NATIONAL

Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0

- ❖ Union health ministry will launch the second phase of nationwide immunisation drive, Indradhanush 2.0 in the second week of December.
- ❖ The program aims to vaccinate children in 271 districts with an immunisation coverage of less than 70%.
- ❖ Only 16 districts currently have routine immunisation coverage of 90% or more.

- ❖ It plans to achieve at least 90% pan-India immunisation coverage by 2022.
- ❖ In 2017, the government launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) to reach out to children who were not immunised at all or may have received partial immunisation.
- ❖ Within a year, around 5 million more children were immunised against 12 vaccine preventable diseases.
- ❖ This year (2019) India is commemorating 25 years of its successful Pulse Polio Programme.

European MEP Visits Kashmir

- ❖ As many as 23 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) arrived in Kashmir on a two-day visit.
- ❖ They plan to assess the ground situation after scrapping of J&K's special status and record the feedback from the Army, local officials and 15 other delegations.
- ❖ United Kingdom MEP Chris Davie's invitation was 'rescinded' after he made a request to meet people without any escort.
- ❖ The members also took boat rides on the Dal lake in the evening.



BRICS Cultural Ministers Meet

- ❖ Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel participated in BRICS Culture Ministers' meeting held in Curitiba, Brazil.



- ❖ India proposed to add 'literature' as another field of cooperation between BRICS nations.

Joint Exhibition @ India

- ❖ Under the auspices of BRICS Alliance of Museums and Art Galleries, the National Gallery of Modern Arts of India will conduct a joint exhibition.
- ❖ It is titled as 'Bonding Regions and Imagining Cultural Synergies' and will be hosted during November-December 2019 at Delhi.
- ❖ BRICS is an association of- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, the five major emerging national economies.

ECONOMY

South Asia Focus – World Bank Report

- ❖ In its latest edition of the South Asia Economic Focus, the World Bank has said that India's growth rate is projected to fall to 6 per cent this fiscal (2019-20).
- ❖ Domestic demand has slipped in India, with private consumption growing 3.1 per cent in the last quarter from 7.3 per cent a year ago.
- ❖ Manufacturing growth plummeted to below 1 per cent in the second quarter of 2019 compared to over 10 per cent a year ago.
- ❖ It added that Bangladesh and Nepal are estimated to grow faster than India in 2019 and overall growth in South Asia is projected to slow down.

ENVIRONMENT

Global Mobility Report

- ❖ According to a report by Sustainable Mobility for All (SuM4All), not a single country (developed or developing) is on track to achieve 'sustainability' in the transportation sector and attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) mandated by the United Nations.
- ❖ SuM4All is an umbrella organisation (public and private organisations) focused on implementing the SDGs and transforming the transport sector.
- ❖ It says that halving the pollution caused by the transport sector can help an additional 1.6 billion people to breathe cleaner air.
- ❖ The report has also released a Global Roadmap for Action (GRA).
- ❖ GRA is a catalogue of policy measures that have been used and tested around the world to achieve four policy goals.



- Universal Access
- Efficiency
- Green Mobility
- Safety

STATES

Mukhya Mantri Kanyah Vivah Yojana - Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh government has introduced the 'Mukhya Mantri Kanya Vivah/Nikah Yojna'.
- ❖ As per the government scheme, brides from economically backward sections of the state are eligible to receive Rs. 51,000 if they prove that the groom's house has a toilet before the wedding.
- ❖ For that, it has been made mandatory for the groom to click a selfie while standing in the toilet in his house.
- ❖ The initiative is aimed at ensuring that toilets are constructed in every household in the state.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Kishore Kumar Samman Award: 2018-19

- ❖ Noted director and producer Priyadarshan, was conferred the Madhya Pradesh government's National Kishore Kumar Samman for 2018-19.
- ❖ Kishore Kumar Samman jury selected noted Hindi cinema actor Waheeda Rehman award for 2017-18.

About the Award

- ❖ The National Kishore Kumar Award has been instituted in memory of eminent playback singer and all-rounder, Kishore Kumar.
- ❖ The award was instituted by MP Department of Culture and is awarded for excellence in cinematic achievements.
- ❖ It carries a citation and a cash prize of Rs.2 lakh.
- ❖ The first recipient was Hrishikesh Mukherjee (1997-98).



SPORTS

First Day/Night Test Cricket Match in India

- ❖ India will stage its first ever day-night Test Match in Kolkata next month against Bangladesh.
- ❖ The second Test against Bangladesh starting on November 22 will be played under floodlights at Eden Gardens stadium.
- ❖ This will also be the first pink ball test match to be played in India.
- ❖ It is expected to be a major boost to the five-day game.
- ❖ There have been 11 day-night Tests since the first between Australia and New Zealand in 2015.

LANDMARK MATCHES AT EDEN

Nov. 8, 1987: First ICC World Cup final outside England (Australia bt England by 7 runs)

Nov. 10, 1991: SA's first match after readmission to international cricket (India won by 3 wkts)

Feb. 16-20, 1999: First-ever continental (Asian) Test championship match (Pak bt India by 46 runs)

June 18-21, 2016: First-ever 4-day D/N match with pink balls (Mohun Bagan bt Bhawanipore Club by 296 runs in CAB Super League final)

April 3, 2016: First-ever ICC WT20 final on Indian soil (WI won a 'double' as their men beat England by 4 wkts and women defeated Australia by 8 wkts)

