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TAMIL NADU

Policies on AI, Blockchain and Cybersecurity

- ❖ Tamil Nadu becomes the first state to come out with Tamil Nadu Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain and Cybersecurity policies in the country.
- ❖ The policies were unveiled by the Chief Minister during the farewell session of the 19th edition of Connect 2020.
- ❖ This policy recommends the Six-Dimensional TAM-DEF Framework for evaluation of AI-based systems.
- ❖ The framework's factors like transparency & audit, accountability & legal issues, misuse protection, digital divide and data deficit, ethics and, fairness and equity, ensure that the evaluation is aligned to democratic values.

NATIONAL

DRDO's new advanced technology centers

- ❖ DRDO has set up eight advanced technology centres to carry out research on futuristic military applications.
- ❖ The centres will provide support to academia to undertake research on new technologies in niche areas for military use.
- ❖ At present, the DRDO has over 50 laboratories across the country
- ❖ They are engaged in developing defence technologies covering disciplines like aeronautics, armaments, combat vehicles, engineering systems, missiles, advanced computing and naval systems.

Air Bubble agreements

- ❖ India has entered into Air Bubble agreements with 10 countries viz. USA, Canada, France, Germany, UK, Maldives, UAE, Qatar, Afghanistan and Bahrain.
- ❖ 'Air bubble' is a bilateral agreement between India and other countries.
- ❖ It allows both to fly their national carriers to and from each other's soil when regular international flights are suspended due to COVID-19.



- ❖ But Mission Vande Bharat is the one where only Indian air carriers were allowed to operate flights.

INTERNATIONAL

India's demand for Queen's counsel

- ❖ Pakistan rejected India's demand that an Indian lawyer or a Queen's counsel should be appointed for death-row prisoner Kulbhushan Jadhav to ensure a free and fair trial in this country.
- ❖ Queen's Counsel is a barrister or advocate, appointed Counsel to the UK Crown on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor.
- ❖ Queen's counsels are recognised in almost all courts around the world.
- ❖ A Queen's Counsel is appointed from within the legal profession on the basis of merit rather than the level of experience.

Charter for health workers' safety

- ❖ The World Health Organization released a Health Worker Safety Charter.
- ❖ It is a step towards ensuring that health workers have the safe working conditions, the training, the pay and the respect they deserve.
- ❖ As per this Charter, health workers represent less than 3% of the population in the large majority of countries and less than 2% in almost all low and middle-income countries.
- ❖ Around 14% of Covid-19 cases reported to WHO are among health workers.
- ❖ According to the Union health ministry data, Telangana (18%), Maharashtra (16%), Delhi (14%), Karnataka (13%), Puducherry (12%) and Punjab (11%) have a high covid-19 infection rate among healthcare workers in India.

Diesel-Electric Multiple Unit Trains to Nepal

- ❖ The Konkan Railway delivered two modern Diesel-Electric Multiple Unit (DMUC) trains to the Nepal Railway for Jaynagar-Kurtha broad gauge.
- ❖ It would run between Jaynagar in Bihar and Kurtha in Dhanusa district.
- ❖ This will be the first broad-gauge railway service in the Himalayan nation.



ECONOMY

11 New industrial corridors

- ❖ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) announced that 11 industrial corridors are being developed in the country.
- ❖ The 11 industrial corridors include the Delhi-Nagpur Industrial Corridor (DNIC).
- ❖ Of these, following five projects have already been approved
 - Dholera Special Investment Region,
 - Shendra Bidkin Industrial Area,
 - Integrated Industrial Township Greater Noida,
 - Integrated Industrial Township Vikram Udyogpuri and
 - Integrated Multi Modal Logistics Hub at Nangal Chaudhary

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

First Gene based COVID-19 test

- ❖ The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has recently approved the gene-based COVID-19 test called FELUDA.
- ❖ The test was indigenously developed.
- ❖ It uses cutting edge CRISPR gene editing technology to detect the COVID-19 virus.
- ❖ The test was developed by scientists based in CSIR-IDIB along with the TATA Group.

- ❖ The test will diagnose the virus in 2 hours.
- ❖ It is the first test in the world to deploy Cas9 protein to detect the virus.
- ❖ FELUDA is the acronym of FNCAS9 editor linked uniform detection.
- ❖ It is a paper strip test.

STATES

Mapping forgotten religious institutions

- ❖ West Bengal government decide to map all these religious institutions has been taken by the information and cultural affairs department under two programs.
- ❖ The two programs are
 - 'Maha Tirtha Bhumi' (Great Pilgrimage Land) and
 - 'Maha Punnya Bhumi' (Great Sacred Land).
- ❖ It aims to conserve all the lesser known and forgotten religious institutions – temples, mosques, gurudwaras and churches.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Peace – September 21

- ❖ A United Nations-designated day, it was first established in 1981.
- ❖ On International Day of Peace, the world body encourages countries to observe the day by adhering to "24 hours of non-violence".
- ❖ Theme of the year: Shaping Peace Together.



MISCELLANEOUS

NASA led study on Cryosphere

- ❖ As per the report, if greenhouse gas emissions continue, Greenland and Antarctica's ice sheets could together contribute more than 38 cm to global sea level rise by 2100.
- ❖ In the lower emissions scenario, the loss from the ice sheet would raise global sea level by about 1.3 inches (3 cm).
- ❖ The findings are in line with projections in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 2019 Special Report on Oceans and the Cryosphere or portions of Earth's surface where water is in solid form.

