

September - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ P.K. Mishra has been appointed as “Principal Secretary” to the Prime Minister.
- ❖ Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of P.K. Sinha as Principal Advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi with effect from 11 September 2019.
- ❖ India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed 200 million-dollar loan agreement for upgrading rural roads in 34 districts of Maharashtra with the objective of improving road safety and better connectivity to rural areas.
- ❖ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight tested indigenously developed low weight, fire and forget Man Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM) in ranges of Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh.
 - The missile was launched from a man portable Tripod launcher.
- ❖ Navdeep Singh Suri, outgoing India’s envoy to United Arab Emirates has been honoured with the First-Class Order of Zayed II award.
 - He was awarded by UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his contribution to the development and strengthening of friendly relations and co-operation between India and UAE during his tenure.
- ❖ PM Modi has announced that the Union Government will spend 3.5 lakh crore rupees in the next five years on ‘Jal Jeevan Mission’ to deliver potable water at every household across the country.
 - Jal Jeevan Mission involves saving water and delivering water at one’s doorstep.
- ❖ A new electric eel “Electrophorus voltai” has been discovered in Amazon rain forest. This organism can discharge upto 860 volts of electricity.
 - This makes it the strongest bioelectricity ever known. Electric eels were inspiration behind the design of first electric battery.

NATIONAL

Kashmir Apples – Market Intervention Scheme

- ❖ Apple growers in the Kashmir Valley are facing unprecedented losses.
- ❖ The Union government has now announced that it will procure apples directly from the growers and that money will be transferred directly to their accounts.

- ❖ Under a special Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) will make the purchase.
- ❖ Due to government-enforced security clampdown, growers have been unable to transport their produce to markets.

About

- ❖ MIS is implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.
- ❖ All the agricultural and horticultural commodities for which Minimum Support Price (MSP) are “not fixed” and are generally perishable in nature are covered under MIS.

Animal Disease Control and Artificial Insemination

- ❖ PM Modi launched the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) and the National Artificial Insemination Programme at Mathura.

Realizing the dream of doubling farmers' income by 2022

PM Modi launches the 'National Animal Disease Control Programme'

- A Central government funded programme to vaccinate 500 million livestock**
- This aims to eradicate FMD (foot and mouth disease) & brucellosis in cattle**
- Rs. 12,652 crores to be spent in the next five years**
- Artificial insemination to be initiated as well**
- Move to enhance the income of farmers all across the nation**

Prosperous farmers / Prosperous New India

Source : Government of India | [f](#) [t](#) [v](#) [i](#) /BJP4India | www.bjp.org

- ❖ NADCP aims to eradicate Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis amongst the livestock in the country.
- ❖ 500 Million Livestock (cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs) will be vaccinated against the above 2 diseases.
- ❖ 36 Million Female Bovine Calves will be vaccinated annually against Brucellosis disease.
- ❖ The Programme has two components

- To control the diseases by 2025
- To Eradicate the diseases by 2030.

2 New Species of Zingiber

- ❖ Scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered two new species of Zingiber, commonly referred to as ginger, from Nagaland.
- ❖ They are
 - Zingiber perenense
 - Zingiber dimapurense
- ❖ Zingiber has 141 species distributed throughout Asia – 20+ species are found in North East India.



16th AEM-India Consultations: Bangkok

- ❖ Economic Ministers from ten ASEAN Member States (AEM) and the Minister of Commerce of India recently met at Bangkok (Thailand) for the 16th AEM-India Consultations.
- ❖ During the meeting, India and ASEAN have agreed to review their Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in goods to make it more business-friendly.
- ❖ Two-way trade stood at USD 80.8 billion in 2018.
- ❖ India is ASEAN's sixth largest trading partner and sixth largest source of FDI.
- ❖ The India-ASEAN FTA in goods was signed in 2009 and came into force from January 2010.



Highest Startups – Delhi-NCR Region

- ❖ Bangalore-based research firm Zinnov and TiE Delhi have released a report titled “Turbocharging Delhi-NCR Startup Ecosystem.”
- ❖ It states that Delhi-NCR region has more startups and unicorns than Bengaluru and Mumbai.
- ❖ Unicorns are companies with a valuation of atleast \$1 billion
- ❖ With suitable government and private sector interventions, Delhi-NCR could become one of the top 5 global startup hubs in 2025.

Revising Huge Fines under Motor Vehicles Act

- ❖ Road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari has said that states have “the authority to revise fines” levied under the new Motor Vehicles Act.
- ❖ Motor Vehicles Act falls in the concurrent list so states as well as the Centre can revise and frame rules under the amended act.
- ❖ The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, came into effect on 9 August.
- ❖ 63 clauses from the Act, including penalty provisions were implemented from September 1, 2019.
- ❖ States can revise fines for as many as two dozen clauses.
- ❖ Gujarat government has already reduced fine amounts stipulated in the new Motor Vehicles Act.

National Genomic Grid (Cancer) – India Specific Solutions

- ❖ Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Aswini Kumar Choubey has announced that government plans to set up a National Genomic Grid for Cancer.
- ❖ The initiative is expected to take cancer research to the next level and make treatment viable for people of different economic classes.
- ❖ This National Genomic Grid will collect samples and study genomic data of cancer patients from India.
- ❖ It will be used to identify the right treatment modalities for Indian population.

INTERNATIONAL

8th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable

- ❖ United Arab Emirates hosted the 8th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER8) on 10 September 2019.
- ❖ India is the co-host along with UAE at the AMER8 event.
- ❖ India is represented by Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.
- ❖ The meet discusses:
 - Role of new technologies for a more competitive and productive world energy mix.
 - Advancing inclusive access to secure, affordable, and sustainable energy services.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Bombay blood group

- ❖ Recently, the demand for the “Bombay blood group” has coincidentally spiked at Mumbai’s hospitals but supply has been scarce.
- ❖ The rare Bombay blood group was first discovered in Bombay in 1952 by Dr Y M Bhende.
- ❖ It is also called “hh” blood group.
- ❖ It is deficient in expressing antigen H, i.e. the RBC has no antigen H.

Blood Groups (Antigens and Antibodies)		
Blood Group	Antigens	Antibodies
A	A,H	B
B	B,H	A
AB	A,B,H	-
O	H	A,B
Bombay Blood Group	-	A,B,H

- ❖ Individuals of this blood group can only be transfused with autologous blood or blood from individuals of Bombay hh phenotype only which is very rare.



- ❖ It is so rare that it is found only in 1 in 40,00,000 lakh persons.

Why is Bombay Blood Group Unique

- ❖ All blood groups (O, A, B, AB) have antigen H in the blood.
- ❖ But very few people do not have antigen H.
- ❖ Instead they have “antibody” H because of which no other blood can be given to them.

SPORTS

Paralympic Committee of India Derecognised

- ❖ Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports derecognised the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) for violating National Sports Development Code of India, 2011.
- ❖ The issue pertains to malpractices in election of PCI President.

About

- ❖ PCI was founded in 1992.
- ❖ It was then earlier named as ‘Physically Handicapped Sports Federation of India’.
- ❖ It is the national body responsible for selecting athletes to represent India at Paralympic Games (or Paralympics) as well as other international athletic meets.

