

September - 13

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Union Minister for Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal has launched the Curriculum for Life Skills (Jeevan Kaushal) designed by University Grants Commission.
 - Life Skills like communication skill, interpersonal skill, time management, problem solving ability, decision making capacity, leadership ability and integrity are part of Under Graduate Course.
- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh government plans to launch an online service for those wanting to adopt a cow and provide sheds to them at gaushalas (cow shelters) across the State.
 - Donors can pick a gaushala in the State and pay the amount to fulfil a cow's diet.
- ❖ The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, Telangana has secured a new distinction as the Indian Concrete Institute awarded it as the outstanding concrete structure of 2019.
 - Award was bagged by Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited.
- ❖ The US-based Committee to Protect Journalists has released a list of 10 worst countries for press censorship. Eriteria, North Korea and Turkmenistan are the top three countries.
 - Saudi Arabia, Iran, Vietnam and China are other Asian countries in the list.

TAMIL NADU

Algal Bloom in Pamban

- ❖ A 10-km stretch of the shoreline between Kunthukal in Pamban and Vedalai in the Gulf of Mannar turned green and witnessed mass fish deaths.
- ❖ Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute conducted tests and concluded that the sudden blooming of 'Noctiluca marine microalgae' was to blame for the incident.
- ❖ The high temperatures and good organic conditions in seawater had provided a conducive environment for the 'green algae' to breed and release spores.
- ❖ Fishes have died due to 'gill choking' and had died of oxygen depletion and breathlessness.



Automatic Rain Gauge @ 1300 spots

- ❖ The government has engaged a consultant to set up telemetric automatic rain gauges, automatic weather stations, automatic water level recorders.
- ❖ They will be set up in about 1,300 locations in revenue sub-divisions and blocks in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The idea is to develop a comprehensive real-time hydro/meteorological data collection system in phases to acquire reliable data.
- ❖ Data will be used to manage heavy rainfall system or drought.
- ❖ At present, about 470 rain gauges are available at the district headquarters by revenue department, agriculture, PWD and meteorology department.

NATIONAL

Cleanliness is Service 2019 (Swacchta hi Seva) – Plastic Usage

- ❖ Swachhata hi Seva 2019 was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Mathura, Uttar Pradesh on September 11, 2019.
- ❖ The theme of the campaign is ‘plastic waste awareness and management’.
- ❖ It aims for mass awareness generation activities on plastic waste management between September 11 and October 1.
- ❖ There will also be a nationwide campaign for plastic waste collection and segregation on October 2.

- ❖ The collected plastic waste will then be recycled and effectively disposed before Diwali, which is on October 27, 2019.
- ❖ After the launch of Swachhata hi Seva 2019, PM Modi visited the Pashudhan Arogya Vigyan Mela.
- ❖ Under this program, cows were being operated to remove plastic waste from their stomachs.



Malaria and India – Rank 4

- ❖ According to the latest Lancet Commission report, India is ranked fourth in the number of malaria cases in the world.
- ❖ Out of the 219 million cases that occurred in 2017, as many as 9.6 million occurred in India.
- ❖ India is followed by Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo And Mozambique.
- ❖ In other parts of world, Malaria is primarily a rural disease but India is the only country where there were cases of “urban malaria”.
- ❖ In 2017, 71 per cent of malaria cases in Tamil Nadu occurred in the capital city, Chennai.
- ❖ The main malaria vector in India ‘Anopheles stephensi’ is particularly suited for Indian urban environments.

Indian Institute of Skills – 3 Cities

- ❖ Union Minister of state for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) Raj Kumar Singh has laid the foundation stone for the Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) at Mumbai.

- ❖ Objective: To provide skill training in highly-specialised areas to students who want to pursue technical education after completing Class X and XII.
- ❖ IIS seeks to ensure that 5,000 trainees will be passing out every year with 70% placement opportunities.
- ❖ IIS will be on the lines of the IITs and IIMs.
- ❖ Initially 3 IIS will be set up - Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Kanpur.
- ❖ The launch of IIS is a step towards making India the Skill Capital of the World.
- ❖ These institutes will be set up and operated on a Public-Private Partnership Model - Tata Education Development Trust is the private partner for IIS, Mumbai.

INTERNATIONAL

Plain Cigarette Packing – Thailand

- ❖ Thailand became the first Asian country to roll out plain cigarette packaging.
- ❖ Such packaging
 - reduces the attractiveness of tobacco products
 - eliminates tobacco packaging as a form of advertising
 - increases the noticeability and effectiveness of pictorial health warnings.

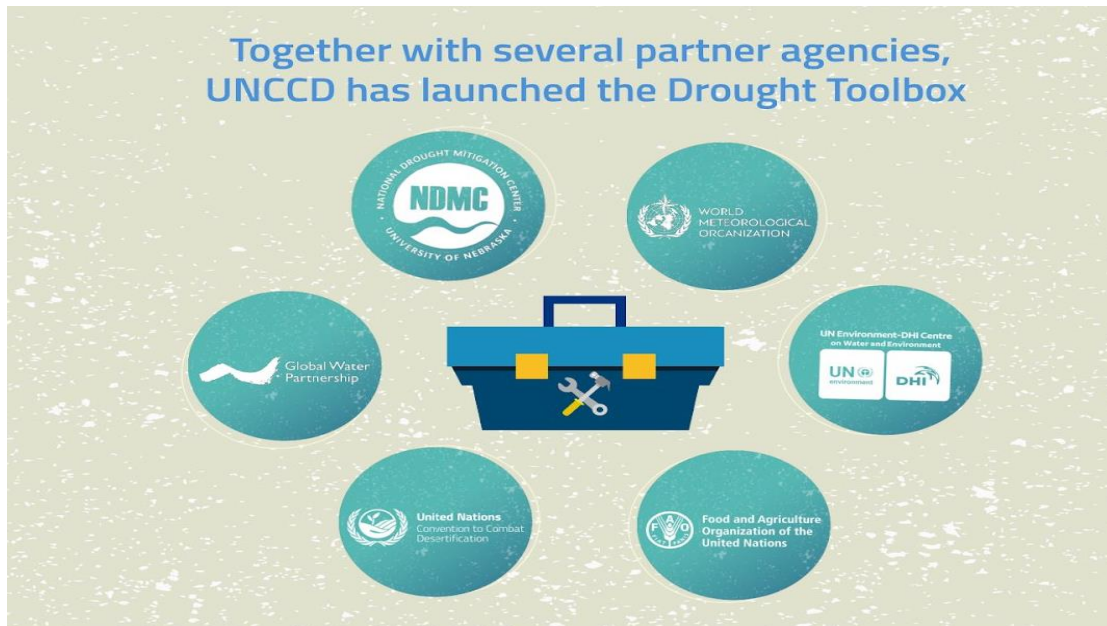


- ❖ In 2012, Australia became the first country to require tobacco products to be sold without colourful brand logos.

ENVIRONMENT

Drought Forecasting Toolbox

- ❖ Drought Toolbox was officially launched during the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) held at New Delhi.
- ❖ It can be used by countries to assess drought risks in their regions much in advance.
- ❖ It can also accurately evaluate the vulnerability of different geographic regions to drought.
- ❖ The toolbox uses 30 parameters, including soil moisture, rainfall data and temperature data of the present and past.
- ❖ According to a World Bank study, drought, which are normally difficult to foresee are four times costlier than floods.



STATES

Sahibganj Multimodal Terminal, Jharkhand

- ❖ The Multi Modal Terminal built at Sahibganj, Jharkhand has become operational.



- ❖ It is the Second Multi-Modal Terminal (MMT) on National Waterway -1 (river Ganga).
- ❖ It will play an important role in transportation of domestic coal from the local mines in Rajmahal.
- ❖ Connectivity:
 - Indo-Nepal cargo connectivity through waterways route.
 - Connected to North-East States through Bangladesh by river-sea route.
 - Connected to hinterland to Kolkata, Haldia and further to the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ The first MMT came into operation on November 2018 at Varanasi.
- ❖ The MMTs are being built as part of the Jal Marg Vikas Project that aims to develop the stretch of River Ganga between Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to Haldia, West Bengal for navigation of large vessels

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

UNESCO International Literacy Prizes 2019

- ❖ UNESCO International Literacy Prizes 2019 were announced by its the Director-General Audrey Azoulay.
- ❖ King Sejong Literacy Prize: Established in 1989 with help of South Korea.
 - It is given for development and use of mother-tongue literacy education and training.

Awardee	Programme
National Office of Literacy and Education for Adults, Algeria	National Strategy for Multilingual Literacy
Textile Fibres and Development Company, Senegal	Functional literacy and follow-up vocational training for farmers in southern Senegal in national languages

- ❖ Confucius Prize for Literacy: Established in 2005 with the help of China.
 - It gives special consideration to literacy amongst adults in rural areas and out-of-school youth, particularly girls and women.



Awardee	Programme
Camacol Antioquia, Colombia	Obras Escuela
BASAbali, Indonesia	BASAbali Wiki
Nuovo Comitato il Nobel per I Disabili, Italy	TELL ME – Theatre for Education and Literacy Learning of Migrants in Europe

