

September - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The First ever “arrested landing” of Light Combat Aircraft - Tejas (Naval variant) was successfully executed at the Shore Based Test Facility, INS Hansa in Goa.
 - This will pave the way to undertake aircraft carrier landing demonstration on board the Indian Naval Aircraft Carrier, Vikramaditya.
- ❖ Hindi Divas (or Hindi day) is an annual day which is observed every year on 14 September all over India since 1953, to celebrate the popularity of Hindi as an official language of India.
 - On 14 September, 1949 Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as official language of Republic of India.
- ❖ PepsiCo India has roped in India’s star athlete Hima Das as the brand ambassador for its sports drink brand Gatorade.
 - With this the 19-year old Hima Das joins ace shuttler PV Sindhu and javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra as the brand’s ambassadors in country.

NATIONAL

Bulletproof Jackets – Made in India

- ❖ India has begun exporting bulletproof jackets as per its own standards to over 100 countries including European nations.





- ❖ India is the fourth country after the US, UK and Germany to have its own national standard on bulletproof jacket which provides 360-degree protection.
- ❖ In December 2018, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) framed a national standard for bulletproof jacket following a direction from the Prime Minister's Office and the Niti Aayog.
- ❖ Manufactured by 2 Defence Public Sector Units: MIDHANI, Hyderabad and Ordnance factory at Avadi, Chennai.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana

- ❖ PM Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)
- ❖ PM-KMY is an old age pension scheme for all land holding Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) in the country.
- ❖ It is voluntary and contributory for farmers in the entry age group of 18 to 40 years and a monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- will be provided to them on attaining the age of 60 years.
- ❖ The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) shall be the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for Pension pay out.

National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons.
- ❖ This is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for the shopkeepers/retail traders and self-employed persons with annual turnover not exceeding Rs 1.5 crore.
- ❖ It is a scheme for entry age of 18 to 40 years with a provision for minimum assured pension of Rs 3,000/- monthly on attaining the age of 60 years.
- ❖ The Union Government shall give 50 % share of the monthly contribution and remaining 50% contribution shall be made by the beneficiary.

Ekalavya Model Schools Launched

- ❖ PM Modi launched 462 Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) across the country in Tribal Dominated Areas.
- ❖ The schools would focus to provide quality upper primary, secondary and senior secondary level education to ST Students in these areas.
- ❖ It is implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.



About

- ❖ EMRS is a Government of India scheme for model residential school for Indian tribals (Scheduled Tribes) across India.
- ❖ It was introduced in the year 1997-98.
- ❖ They are set up in States/UTs with grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India.

National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) Project

- ❖ Under the NATGRID project, government proposes “to link social media accounts” to the database of records related to immigration entry and exit, banking and telephone details among others.
- ❖ NATGRID database will collate information from more than 20 organisations in the fields of telecom, tax records, bank, immigration, etc.
- ❖ At least 10 central agencies like IB, R&AW and others will have access to the data on a secured platform for counter-terror investigations.
- ❖ The project was started in 2009 in the aftermath of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.
- ❖ It is expected to be rolled out by end of 2019.
- ❖ NATGRID Head: Ashish Gupta IAS

President Visits Iceland, Switzerland and Slovenia

- ❖ President of India Ram Nath Kovind, addressed the India-Iceland Business Forum in Reykjavik, capital of Iceland.
- ❖ He is on a 3 day visit to Reykjavik, Iceland from 9-11 September 2019.
- ❖ This is part of President’s visit to– Iceland, Switzerland and Slovenia.

- ❖ This is also the first visit of an Indian President to Iceland since visit of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam in 2005.

UN Honour for Indian Women Police Officers

- ❖ Five Indian women police officers were honoured by the United Nations for their commendable services in the world body's mission in South Sudan.
- ❖ The women officers who were conferred the UN medal were:
 - Reena Yadav (Inspector Chandigarh Police)
 - Gopika Jahagirdar (DSP, Maharashtra Police)
 - Bharati Samantray (DSP, Ministry of Home Affairs)
 - Ragini Kumari (Inspector, Ministry of Home Affairs)
 - Kamal Shekhawat (ASP, Rajasthan Police)



- ❖ They were awarded at the UN medal at a medal parade in the UN Mission in Juba, South Sudan.

INTERNATIONAL

Global Antimicrobial Resistance R&D Hub: India

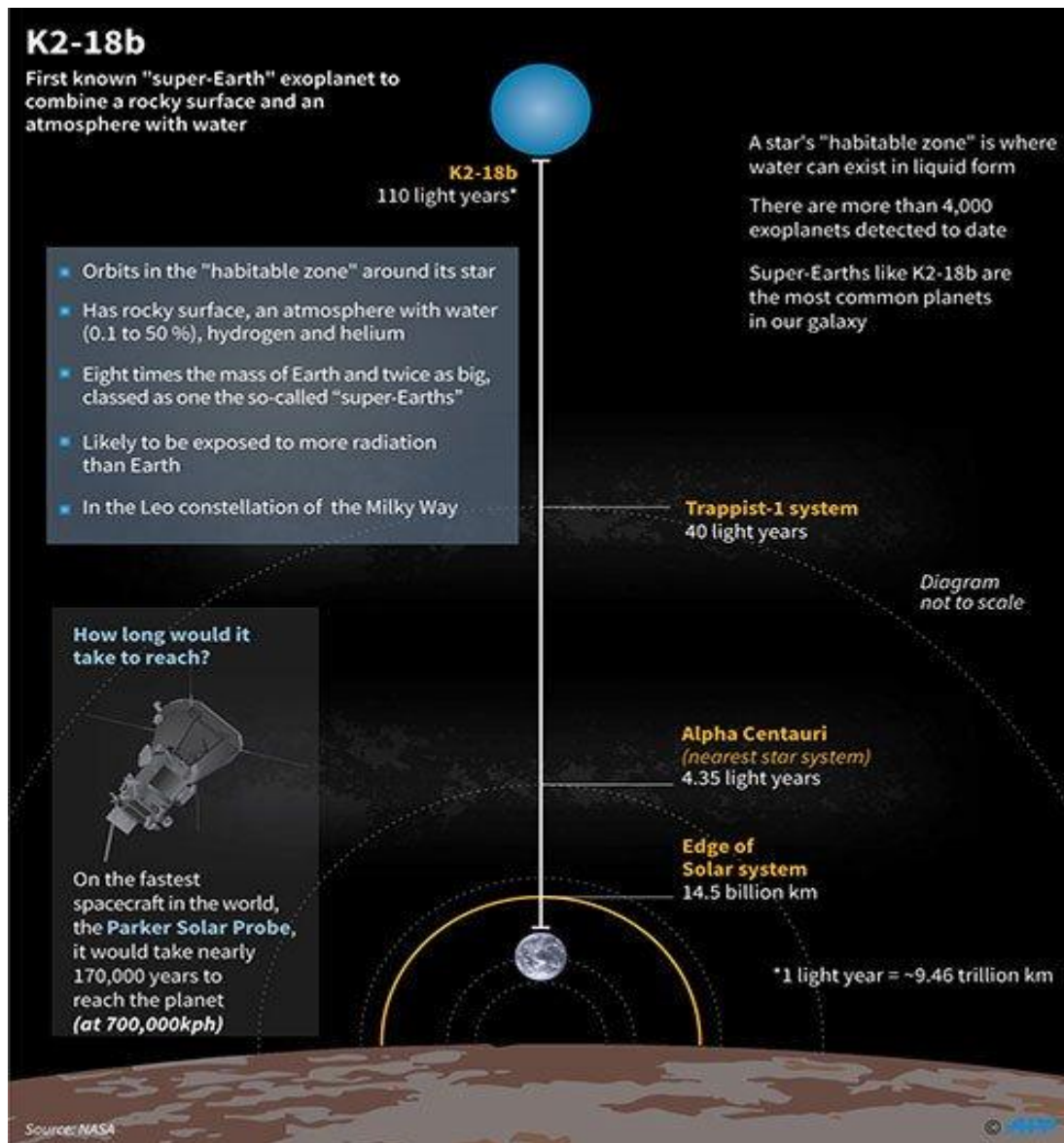
- ❖ India has joined the Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R&D) Hub as a new member.
- ❖ The Global AMR R&D Hub was launched in May 2018 on the margins of the 71st session of the World Health Assembly.

- ❖ This is a new initiative aimed at promoting research into combating antimicrobial resistance.
- ❖ It is mainly funded by German government and the secretariat is at Berlin.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Water Vapour in Outer Space

- ❖ Astronomers have for the first time discovered “water vapour” in the atmosphere of a distant planet called K2-18b.



- ❖ Data from NASA's Hubble Space Telescope was used to make the discovery.



- ❖ K2-18b has an atmosphere and it has water in it, thus making it the only exoplanet known to have both water and temperatures that could support life.
- ❖ It orbits a red dwarf star 110 light-years away from Earth in the Leo constellation of the Milky Way.
- ❖ It is 8 times the mass of earth and twice as big.
- ❖ It is known as a super-Earth, or exoplanets between the mass of Earth and Neptune.

ENVIRONMENT

Stopping Illegal Groundwater Exploitation – NGT

- ❖ The National Green Tribunal has constituted a committee to formulate steps to cease illegal groundwater extraction.
- ❖ The committee aims to
 - ❖ Ensure that groundwater is not illegally extracted
 - ❖ Monitor manning and functioning of the Central Ground Water Authority
 - ❖ It comprises,
 - Joint secretaries of Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Water Resources
 - Central Ground Water Board
 - National Institute of Hydrology (Roorkee)
 - National Remote Sensing Centre and Central Pollution Control Board

STATES

Special Cell for Overseas Recruitment – Punjab

- ❖ The Punjab Employment Generation Department (PEGD) has decided to play the role of a recruitment agency for the youth “wanting to go abroad” for work.
- ❖ It will also set up a special cell to send the youth for studies abroad.
- ❖ The move came after regular complaints of fraud by travel agents.
- ❖ The special cell will have a tie-up with foreign public universities which offer education at reasonable rates.
- ❖ This facility is already available in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Telangana.

