

September - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Justice P Lakshmana Reddy, a retired judge of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh High Court was sworn-in as the first Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh.
 - His oath to office was administered by AP Governor Biswabhusan Hairchandan at a function held in Vijayawada.
- ❖ Indian Air Force has successfully flight-tested air-to-air missile “Astra” off the coast of Odisha. The missile was launched from a Sukhoi Su-30 MKI combat aircraft.
- ❖ American breast cancer survivor Sarah Thomas became the “first person” to swim across the English Channel four times non-stop in a 54-hour feat of endurance.

NATIONAL

Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019

- ❖ The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019 which was passed by the Parliament during the last Budget Session has come into effect.
- ❖ The Bill amends the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.
- ❖ This will facilitate smooth and speedy eviction of unauthorized occupants from Government residential accommodations.
- ❖ This is expected to further increase availability of government residential accommodations for eligible persons and reduce the waiting period.

National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development

- ❖ Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development at Indian Institute of Science (IISc)-Bengaluru.
- ❖ Objective
 - Development of Clean Coal technologies
 - Developing supercritical power plant technologies
- ❖ The research in clean coal domain will be helpful for meeting the energy needs of the country



About

- ❖ Clean coal technology is a collection of technologies to lessen the negative environmental impact of coal energy generation.

SITMEX – 19

- ❖ A maiden trilateral exercise named SITMEX-19, involving Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), Royal Thailand Navy (RTN) and Indian Navy (IN) has commenced at Port Blair.
- ❖ The five-day-long exercise is aimed at bolstering the maritime inter-relationships amongst navies of Singapore, Thailand and India.
- ❖ The program is to enhance the overall maritime security in the region.
- ❖ Malaysia has evinced interest to join the exercise.

5th International Ramayan Festival

- ❖ The 5th International Ramayan Festival organized by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is being held from 17-19 September 2019 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The year 2019 is 5th edition of International Ramayan Festival.
- ❖ Artists from 17 countries have participated and rendered their versions of Ramayan.

About

- ❖ ICCR was founded in 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad who was independent India's 1st Education Minister.
- ❖ The ICCR was established with the vision of propagating Indian culture and to strengthen mutual understanding and cultural relations between India and other countries.

Bharat Bill Payment System

- ❖ In a consumer-friendly initiative, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded the scope and coverage of Bharat Bill Payment System.
- ❖ It includes all categories of billers who raise recurring bills and payments (except prepaid recharges) as eligible participants, on a voluntary basis.
- ❖ School fees, insurance premiums, EMIs and municipal taxes, which can also be paid through BBPS.

About



- ❖ BBPS is an integrated bill payment system that offers interoperable bill payment service to customers online and via a network of agents on ground.
- ❖ It functions under National Payments Corporation of India.

Wargaming Software by DRDO

- ❖ The Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) has handed over a New-Generation Wargaming Software to the Indian Navy.
- ❖ The software is aimed at creating an environment that would enable Maritime Warfare Centres (MWCs) to train using latest technological and computing tools.
- ❖ It was developed by New Delhi-based Institute for Systems Studies and Analysis (ISSA) and Maritime Warfare Centres (MWCs), Visakhapatnam
- ❖ ISSA is a premier DRDO laboratory.

Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS)

- ❖ Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways Piyush Goyal has launched Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS).
- ❖ It has been developed on the pattern of US Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) system.
- ❖ SIMS has been notified with effect from 1 November 2019.
- ❖ It will provide advance information about steel imports to Union government and industry stake holders to have effective policy interventions.
- ❖ The data will be monitored by steel ministry.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Human Space Mission: ISRO and DRDO

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) joined hands with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the development of human-centric systems for the Human Space Mission.
- ❖ The collaboration is to demonstrate their human space flight capabilities.
- ❖ They will demonstrate human spaceflight capability before the 75th anniversary of India's independence in 2022.



STATES

1100 Helpline in Himachal Pradesh

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh government has launched Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline '1100' (Chief Minister's Service Resolution Helpline).
- ❖ The service is for speedy and time-bound redressal of public grievances using modern technology.
- ❖ With the launch of Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline Himachal Pradesh has now become 4th state in country to provide this facility.
- ❖ So far, this facility is available in Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Moti Bagh Film – Uttarakhand

- ❖ Moti Bagh, a documentary film based on the struggle of a farmer in a remote Uttarakhand village has been “nominated” for the Oscars.
- ❖ The film is based on the life of Vidyadutt Sharma, a farmer living in Pauri Garhwal region.
- ❖ This documentary film was directed by Nirmal Chandra Dandriyal.
- ❖ A short film based on the person has also won the 1st prize at the International short film festival in Kerala.

Dikshi Hydroelectric Project – Arunachal Pradesh

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu dedicated the Dikshi Hydroelectric Project to the people of the state.
- ❖ The 24 Mega Watt Hydroelectric Project has been installed at Dikshi Village in West Kameng District.
- ❖ It is a Run of the River project constructed on the river Phudung.
- ❖ It was completed in a record time of four years.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh is the sole beneficiary of the power generation from this project.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Dr Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award 2019

- ❖ Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh was conferred the Dr Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award 2019 in Dhaka.
- ❖ She was awarded for her vision of a peaceful and prosperous South Asia and her contribution to fostering cooperation between India and Bangladesh.
- ❖ The award has been instituted in the memory of former Indian President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- ❖ It is given every year to honour statesmen or leaders who have shown excellence in their fields to achieve the best for their countries.
- ❖ The award is presented by Dale View, which is a non-governmental organisation registered under the Charitable Societies Act.

