

September - 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Uttarakhand government has decided to make Sanskrit language compulsory in all government and private schools from Classes 3 to 8.
 - The main regional languages of Uttarakhand, Kumaoni and Garhwali are accorded that status of “endangered languages” by UNESCO.
- ❖ Haryana High Court Chief Justice Krishna Murari, Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice V. Ramasubramanian, Rajasthan High Court Chief Justice S Ravindra Bhat and Kerala High Court Chief Justice Hrishikesh Roy have been appointed as Judges of Supreme Court of India.
 - The total number of SC Judges becomes 34, which is the highest till date.
- ❖ The 12th century Bronze Idol of Buddha seated in the Bhumisparsha Mudra that was stolen on 22 August 1961 from Nalanda Museum of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has been returned to India by UK.
- ❖ Robert O’Brien has been appointed as the National Security Adviser of United States of America. Robert O’Brien will replace John Bolton as the NSA of US.
- ❖ India Red has clinched the 58th season of the Duleep Trophy tournament by defeating India Green by an innings and 38 runs in the final at Bengaluru.
 - Abhimanyu Easwaran who made 153 runs for India Red, was adjudged the player of the match.

NATIONAL

e-cigarettes banned

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given the “approval” to ban e-cigarettes.
- ❖ The production, manufacturing, import/export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertising related to ENDS (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems) or e-cigarettes are banned.
- ❖ The government has taken the ordinance route for the ban.
- ❖ Eighteen states and two Union territories have already prohibited the use and sale of e-cigarettes, e-hookah and vaping.

Up in smoke

Wednesday's move follows an advisory by the government in 2018 to all States to consider banning e-cigarettes

- e-cigarettes are brought from China and other countries and are not manufactured in India. They are also available online

- WHO too urged member countries to take appropriate steps. It does not endorse e-cigarettes as cessation aids

- 16 States & one Union Territory have already banned them. The Indian Council of Medical Research, in a recent paper, had recommended a complete ban on them



- They are marketed as being safer than conventional cigarettes but this is false. Available literature suggests that they may act as gateway products to induce non-smokers to nicotine-use

World's Largest Diaspora – Indians

- ❖ At 17.5 million, India's diaspora continues to be the largest diaspora in the world.
- ❖ It constitutes 6.4% of the total world migrant population of 272 million in mid-2019.
- ❖ UAE (3.4 million), US (2.6 million) and Saudi Arabia (2.4 million) were the top three migration destinations for Indians.
- ❖ More than 50,000 Indians have acquired US Citizenship in the last year.
- ❖ The report "International Migrant Stock 2019" has been released by the Population Division of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).
- ❖ Migrants from Mexico constituted the second largest diaspora (11.8 million), followed by China (10.7 million), Russia (10.5 million), Syria (8.2 million), Bangladesh (7.8 million), Pakistan (6.3 million), Ukraine (5.9 million), the Philippines (5.4 million) and Afghanistan (5.1 million).
- ❖ In 2019, regionally, Europe hosted the largest number of international migrants (82 million), followed by Northern America (59 million) and Northern Africa and Western Asia (49 million).
- ❖ At the Country level, United States of America is hosting the largest number of international migrants (51 million), equal to about 19 per cent of the world's total.
- ❖ Germany and Saudi Arabia host the second and third largest numbers of migrants (13 million each), followed by Russia (12 million), the United Kingdom

(10 million), the United Arab Emirates (9 million), France, Canada and Australia (around 8 million each) and Italy (6 million).

THE MOVE

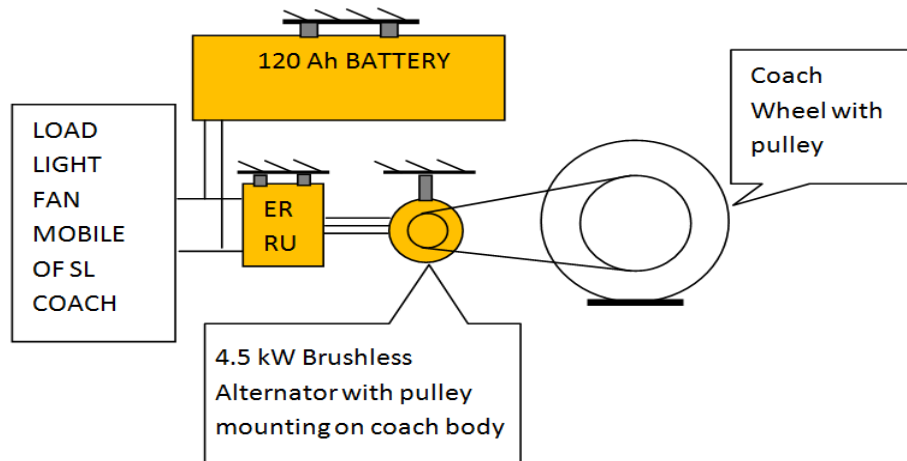


Advanced Landing Ground Reopened @ Vijaynagar, Arunachal

- ❖ India has reopened the advanced landing ground (ALG) at Vijaynagar in Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Vijaynagar is dominated by former Assam Rifles personnel settled there since May 1961 for strategic reasons.
- ❖ The place is on the border with Myanmar.
- ❖ The local Lisu tribal people call the place Daudi.
- ❖ The IAF had first commenced its operations in Vijaynagar with the Dakota and Otter aircraft in 1962.
- ❖ Now an AN-32 aircraft had landed with further provisions for C-130J and C-17 heavy-lift transport aircraft landing.

Indian Railways: Head on Generators

- ❖ Ministry of Railways has decided to adopt Head on Generation (HOG) technology in all LHB Coaches trains within this year.
- ❖ Till date 342 trains have already been converted into HOG.
- ❖ The new technology HOG will be available at ₹6 per unit as compared to the End-on-Generation (EOG) system, in which cost of power is ₹22 per unit.



How it works?

- ❖ In HOG Technology, the power will be drawn from the overhead electric supply.
- ❖ The power generator cars which used to make huge noise and emit fumes will no more be there.
- ❖ In place of two such generator cars there will be
 - one standby silent generator car to be used for emergency.
 - Other car will have the capability to convert power from the overhead supply to be utilised in the entire train.

Emerging Trends in Public Architecture

- ❖ A National Seminar on 'Emerging Trends in Public Architecture' was inaugurated by Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep S. Puri at New Delhi.
- ❖ The seminar was organized by Central Public Works Department as part of Nationwide Awareness Campaign during ongoing 'Construction Technology Year – 2019-20'.
- ❖ It aims to increase awareness about the use of modern technologies in the construction sector.

INTERNATIONAL

Vaccine hesitancy – Threat to Global Health

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) has included 'vaccine hesitancy' as one of the 10 threats to global health for the year 2019.
- ❖ Vaccine hesitancy means the reluctance or refusal to vaccinate despite the availability of vaccines.



- ❖ Vaccine hesitancy threatens to reverse progress made in tackling vaccine-preventable diseases.
- ❖ Example: Measles has seen a 30% increase in cases globally in 2018.
- ❖ Ten threats to global health in 2019 according to WHO are:
 - Air pollution and climate change
 - Noncommunicable diseases
 - Global influenza pandemic
 - Fragile and vulnerable settings
 - Antimicrobial resistance
 - Ebola and other high-threat pathogens
 - Weak primary health care
 - Vaccine hesitancy
 - Dengue
 - HIV

ENVIRONMENT

Weed killer Glyphosate - Germany

- ❖ Germany has decided to phase out the controversial weed killer glyphosate by the end of 2023.
- ❖ The ban is to protect insect populations that play a pivotal role in ecosystems and pollination of food crops.
- ❖ The chemical is also suspected to cause cancer in humans.
- ❖ Glyphosate is popular in India too.
- ❖ Earlier, Austria became the first EU member to ban glyphosate use in July 2019.

STATES

DEET App – Telangana

- ❖ Telangana State government has launched an exclusive app for unemployed youth.
- ❖ The Digital Employment Exchange of Telangana (DEET) is a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country.

- ❖ The DEET platform currently has more than 40,000 vacancies from companies across the State and the country.
- ❖ DEET aims to give more opportunities to job seekers while broadening the horizons of employers by giving them ample options to choose from.

SPORTS

National Swimming Championships

- ❖ Srihari Nataraj has won the men's 100m freestyle title and the 50m backstroke event at the 73rd Glenmark Senior National Aquatic Championship.
- ❖ He has also created a national record by finishing with a timing of 25.58 seconds to in the men's 50m backstroke event.
- ❖ Shivani Kataria from Haryana was adjudged as the best woman swimmer.
- ❖ Karnataka won the overall championship and men's team title.
- ❖ Maharashtra took the women's team trophy.

Hero Motorcorp and Golf

- ❖ Hero MotoCorp Chairman and Managing Director Pawan Munjal will be inducted to the 2019 Asia Pacific Golf Hall of Fame.
- ❖ He is recognised for his support to the sport in India and around the World.
- ❖ The induction ceremony will be held on November at the Asian Golf Awards Gala Banquet to be held at DLF Golf & Country Club in Gurugram.
- ❖ He is a partner of all three prominent Golf tours - The PGA Tour, The European Tour and the Asian Tour.

