

October – 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Delhi government signed a twin-city agreement with the government of Moscow for cooperation in various fields like environment, culture and education, for the next 3 years.
- ❖ The 6th Interregional Ministerial Meeting of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was held in Singapore.
- ❖ Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Dr Shekhar Mande as the Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Research (DSIR).
 - He will succeed Girish Sahni who superannuated in August 2018.
- ❖ The 46th edition of world's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair was held at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida. The IHGF fair is held biannually and is organised by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts.
- ❖ The 13th Convention of Central Information Commission was held in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ❖ India and Azerbaijan have signed protocol on trade and economic, science and technology cooperation. It was signed at 5th meeting of India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission held at New Delhi.
- ❖ Prime Minister has unveiled a 64-foot-tall statue of peasant leader Sir Chhotu Ram at his native village Sampla in Rohtak district of Haryana. The statue has been sculpted by renowned sculptor and Padma Bhushan-recipient Ram Vanji Sutar.
- ❖ The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) has officially added word 'Idiocracy' in it. It is among 1,400 new words, senses, and phrases added to the latest update of OED. OED also added term 'trapo'.
 - Idiocracy - society consisting of or governed by people characterized as idiots or government formed of people considered stupid, ignorant/idiotic.
 - Trapo - politician perceived as belonging to conventional and corrupt ruling class.

NATIONAL

First Indo-US tri-services exercise

- ❖ The first India-United States tri-services exercise is likely to take place in 2019 in India.
- ❖ It will include all services of both countries and talks are on to include special forces.
- ❖ The USA will be the 2nd country after Russia with whom India conducts tri-services exercise.
- ❖ The tri-forces of India and US already take part in multiple bilateral exercises separately.
 - Armies of both countries - Yudh Aabyas (annual drill)
 - Navies of both countries – Malabar (also involves Japan).
 - Air Forces - Cope India (bilateral drill)
- ❖ But this will be the first time, three services of India and US will participate in drill together.

UN Human Rights Council

- ❖ India was recently elected to the United Nations' Human Rights Council' (UNHRC).
- ❖ UNHRC is the main body of UN charged with promoting and monitoring human rights.
- ❖ India secured 188 votes out of 193 in the Asia-Pacific category and won the seat to UNHRC with highest votes among all candidates.
- ❖ The 18 new members were elected by absolute majority through a secret ballot. Countries needed a minimum of 97 votes to get elected to the Council.
- ❖ The new members will serve a term of three years beginning January 1, 2019.
- ❖ This was the 5th time India has been elected to UNHRC, previously was elected 2006-2009, 2011-2014 and 2014-2017.

IND-INDO CORPAT

- ❖ The 32nd edition of India-Indonesia coordinated patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) is being held in Belawan, Indonesia.

- ❖ Navies of both countries have been carrying out coordinated patrolling twice year since 2002.
- ❖ The patrolling will be conducted in 3 phases, followed by closing ceremony at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Island.
- ❖ It will be conducted near International Maritime Boundary Line in an effort to keep Indian Ocean region (IOR) safe and secure.

INTERNATIONAL

Malaysia to abolish the death penalty for all crimes

- ❖ Malaysia's Cabinet has agreed to abolish death penalty for all crimes and halt pending executions.
- ❖ This decision was taken in pursuance of strong domestic opposition to colonial practice and is also in line with move away from capital punishment in the rest of the world.



ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

- Murder
- Drug trafficking
- Discharging firearms

Are offences punished with mandatory death penalty in Malaysia.

The government amended the **Dangerous Drugs Act 1952** which retains the mandatory death penalty for all but extremely narrow circumstances.

Drug-related offences do not meet the threshold of "most serious crimes" under international law and must not be punished by death.

- ❖ Currently capital punishment in Malaysia is mandatory for murder, kidnapping, possession of firearms, treason and drug trafficking, among other crimes.
- ❖ At present, the sentence of death penalty has been abolished in 103 countries.

World's Most Innovative University

- ❖ Stanford University was named as the World's Most Innovative University by Reuters news agency rankings.
- ❖ Stanford University has topped this list for four consecutive years.



- ❖ The 2nd and 3rd spots have been held by US's Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University respectively.
- ❖ US dominated the list with 46 universities among the top 100. No Indian was able to make it to the list.
- ❖ The Reuters' top 100 World's Most Innovative University ranking recognises universities from across the world for their work in inventing new technologies, advance science and power new markets and industries.
- ❖ It was first published in 2015, since then there has been no mention of any Indian university in the list.

Bangladesh enacts Digital Security Bill, 2018

- ❖ Bangladesh's President has given his assent to the controversial Digital Security Bill, 2018, by enacting it as a law.
- ❖ This new law combines previous colonial-era Official Secrets Act with tough new provisions such as arrests without warrant.
- ❖ It aims to deal with cybercrimes, including hurting religious sentiment, spreading negative propaganda against 1971 Liberation War and Bangabandhu (Sheikh Mujibur Rahman).

ECONOMY

Indus Food-II tradeshow

- ❖ Indus Food-II tradeshow will be held in Greater Noida on January 14-15, 2019.
- ❖ Indus Food-II is an export focused annual F&B (Food and Beverage) trade fair. It will exhibit India's best food, beverages and Agri products to global buyers.
- ❖ It is organized by Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) along with commerce and industry ministry.

STATES

Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship Program

- ❖ Delhi government has launched Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme.
- ❖ It seeks to attract young leaders across the country to work with the government on addressing some of the most pressing urban challenges.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Human Rights Commission - Silver Jubilee

- ❖ National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) celebrated Silver Jubilee (25 years) on October 12, 2018. NHRC was set up on October 12, 1993.
- ❖ The silver Jubilee celebrations were held in New Delhi.
- ❖ NHRC also released special silver jubilee logo and commissioned documentary titled 'NHRC: 25 years, Billion Hopes' capturing the 25 years of its journey.
- ❖ It also organized 'Human Rights Mela' and 'Human Rights Street Theatre Festival' in New Delhi.



MISCELLANEOUS

Aero India 2019

- ❖ Aero India 2019 (12th edition) will be held in Bengaluru.
- ❖ Aero India is a biennial event, which is Asia's largest military aviation exhibition.
- ❖ Since its inception in 1996, Bengaluru has been hosting the air show.
- ❖ The Website for Aero India 2019 is: (<https://aeroindia.gov.in>).
