

October– 25

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has appointed former State Bank of India (SBI) chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya as an independent director of the company for a period of five years.
 - After Nita Ambani, Bhattacharya is the second woman director on the board of Reliance Industries.
- ❖ The 5th edition of the Women of India Organic Festival will be held from October 26 to November 4 at New Delhi. It is being organised by the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry to promote women organic farmers and entrepreneurs.
- ❖ The 8th edition of the European Congress on SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) was held at Katowice, Poland with theme “Business-Self-Government Together for Economy”.
 - Ms. Alka Arora (Joint Secretary in Ministry of MSME) is leading the delegation of 32 Indian SMEs.

NATIONAL

Agreement on security cooperation

- ❖ India and China have signed agreement on internal security cooperation.
- ❖ It is first such agreement to be signed between the two countries.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen and consolidate assistance in counter-terrorism, organised crimes, drug control, human trafficking and exchange of information.

MoU on operationalization of Sittwe Port

- ❖ India and Myanmar inked a crucial MoU for appointment of private port operator for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Sittwe Port, Paletwa Inland Water Terminal and associated facilities included in Kaladan Multi Model Transit Transport Project.
- ❖ Sittwe port in Myanmar will connect India’s landlocked north-east region to Bay of Bengal through Mizoram.

- ❖ It will also provide an alternate route to Kolkata. It is also significant step in the implementation of India's Act East policy.

Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project

- ❖ This project aims to connect seaport of Kolkata (India) with Sittwe seaport in Myanmar by sea.
- ❖ It will then link Sittwe seaport to Lashio in Myanmar via Kaladan river boat route and then from Lashio to Mizoram in India by road transport.
- ❖ This project will reduce distance from Kolkata to Mizoram by approximately 1000 km and cut travelling time to 3-4 days for transport of goods.



INTERNATIONAL

Druzhba III

- ❖ The Druzhba 2018 (Friendship 2018) joint bilateral military exercise between Pakistan and Russian special forces has begun in Pakistan.
- ❖ This exercise will be organized in north-western hill region in Nowshera district of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan.
- ❖ The two week long joint military exercise is aimed at bolstering and building military cooperation between the two countries.
- ❖ This will be the 3rd joint military drill between both countries under the bilateral training cooperation agreement.

Druzhba military exercise

- ❖ The Druzhba military exercise between Russia and Pakistan was started in 2016.

- ❖ “Druzba” is a Russian word, which means “friendship”.
- ❖ Its first edition was held in October, 2016 at northern Pakistan.
- ❖ The second edition was held in Russia in September 2017.

Iron Magic 19

- ❖ The joint military exercise Iron Magic 19 between United Arab Emirates (UAE) and United States (US) kicked off near Dubai.
- ❖ The 2-week military exercise is a part of series of joint military exercises held throughout the year between UAE armed forces and armed forces of other countries.

US to pull out of Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty

- ❖ The United States President has announced that the US will unilaterally pull out of 3-decade-old Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed with Russia during the Cold War.
- ❖ It was crucial Cold War-era treaty banning development, testing and possession of short and medium range ground-launched nuclear missiles with range of 500-5,000 km.
- ❖ The treaty was signed in December 1987 between the then US President Ronald Reagan and his USSR counterpart Mikhail Gorbachev.

Four-nation summit on Syria crisis

- ❖ Turkey will host the four-nation summit on Syrian crisis in Istanbul to discuss the conflict in Syria and efforts for a lasting solution to the war in the Arab country.
- ❖ The summit will be held between the leaders of Turkey, France, Germany and Russia.

Background

- ❖ Russia is a main backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad’s government while Turkey has been helping insurgents trying to remove him from power.



ECONOMY

SBI launches its first “Wealth Hub”

- ❖ State Bank of India (SBI) has launched its wealth business services by opening “SBI Wealth Hub” at the Lalbagh branch in Mangalore.
- ❖ The wealth hub was inaugurated by the SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar.
- ❖ Thus, SBI has become the first PSU bank in the country to introduce comprehensive wealth business services for its clients.
- ❖ The bank has re-branded its wealth business as “SBI Wealth”.
- ❖ It offers best-in-class personalised banking and investment services to its elite High Net worth Individual (HNI) clients through a dedicated team of relationship managers.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Poly-Oxime

- ❖ The Indian researchers have developed a new skin gel ‘poly-Oxime’ that inhibits the absorption of the most commonly used pesticides such as Organophosphorous compounds.
- ❖ The gel deactivates these chemicals, preventing them from going deep into the skin and organs like the brain and the lungs.
- ❖ This poly-Oxime gel made of chemically modified chitosan — found in the shells of crustaceans such as lobsters, crabs and shrimps.
- ❖ The gel has been prepared by researchers at Bangalore-based Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (InStem) from a nucleophilic polymer.

ENVIRONMENT

Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali campaign

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has launched Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali campaign.
- ❖ It is aimed at reducing adverse environmental conditions especially pollution in the country after post Diwali celebrations.



- ❖ This campaign was initiated in 2017-18 to enlighten children about harmful fire crackers and motivate them to celebrate Diwali in environment-friendly manner.
- ❖ It also merged this year's campaign with "Green Good Deed" movement.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award

- ❖ The eminent jurist Fali S. Nariman (89) was awarded 19th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration.
- ❖ He was presented the award by Vice President at a function held in New Delhi.

Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award

- ❖ The award was instituted in 1999 by Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management in memory of India's Second Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.
- ❖ It is awarded annually to Indian who is exceptionally outstanding and distinguished business leader, management practitioner, public administrator, educator or institution builder for his/her sustained individual contributions and achievements.
- ❖ In 2017, it was awarded to Bindeshwar Pathak, founder of Sulabh International.

Vyas Samman

- ❖ The renowned Hindi author Mamta Kalia was presented the 27th Vyas Samman for her novel "Dukkham Sukkham".
- ❖ Dukkham Sukkham published in 2009 is saga of a lower middle-class family's three generations.

Vyas Samman

- ❖ The Vyas Samman award was instituted by KK Birla Foundation in 1991.
- ❖ It was first presented to poet Ram Vilas Sharma in 1991.
- ❖ It is awarded annually to the outstanding literary work in Hindi authored and published in past 10 years by an Indian citizen.
- ❖ The award carries monetary award of Rs.3.5 lakh, a citation and a plaque.
