

**October – 26**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Senior Uttarakhand high court judge Vijay Kumar Bisht has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of Sikkim high court.
- ❖ PNB MetLife, a private life insurer, has gone live with an Artificial Intelligence-powered customer service app 'Khushi', which aims to aid policyholders for their insurance-related queries.
- ❖ According to data from the U.S. Department of Labour, Tata Consultancy Services is the only Indian company among top 10 firms to get foreign labour certification for the H-1B visas for the fiscal year 2018.

## **NATIONAL**

### **India's first engine-less train - Train 18 (T-18)**

- ❖ India's first engine-less train, Train 18, which is being regarded as a successor to the 30-year-old Shatabdi Express, is set to hit the tracks for trials on October 29.
- ❖ The swanky train is a 100% 'Make in India' project, manufactured at the ICF (Integral Coach Factory), Chennai.
- ❖ The full AC train is equipped to run at a speed of up to 160 kmph as against Shatabdi's 130 kmph which will cut down travel time by 15%
- ❖ T-18 is not only a self-propelled engine-less train (similar to the Metro trains) but also energy-efficient as its coaches will be fitted with LED lights.

### **Nageshwar Rao - Interim Director of CBI**

- ❖ Alok Kumar Verma, Director of CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) and Rakesh Asthana, Special Director of CBI were divested of their roles.
- ❖ The move comes following allegations of corruption by senior functionaries of CBI one against another.
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of M. Nageshwar Rao as Interim Director of CBI with immediate effect (October 24).
- ❖ He is currently working as Joint Director of CBI.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Paul Biya re-elected as Cameroon's President

- ❖ Cameroon's President Paul Biya has been re-elected for a seventh term, extending his 36-year rule over the nation.
- ❖ Biya has won 71.3 % of the vote, far ahead of opposition candidate Maurice Kamto's 14.2 %.
- ❖ Biya is currently the longest-ruling non-royal leader in Africa.
- ❖ He is also the oldest ruler in Sub-Saharan Africa after Robert Mugabe stepped down during the 2017 Zimbabwean coup d'état.

### First trilateral meeting on Chabahar port project

- ❖ The first trilateral meeting between India, Afghanistan and Iran of Coordination Council of Chabahar Agreement was held in Tehran, capital city of Iran.



- ❖ India, Iran and Afghanistan in May 2016, had signed the agreement.
- ❖ The pact involves establishment of transit and transport corridor among the three countries using Chabahar Port as one of regional hubs.

- ❖ The meeting assumes significance as strategically-located Chabahar port on energy-rich Iran's southern coast was coming under the ambit of US sanctions on Iran.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Superflares from the Young Red Dwarf Stars

- ❖ By using Hubble Space Telescope, NASA scientists have found that violent flares from the Young Red Dwarf Stars may make planets orbiting it uninhabitable by affecting their atmospheres.
- ❖ Hubble is observing such stars through a large programme called HAZMAT (Habitable Zones and M dwarf Activity across Time).
- ❖ "M dwarf" is the astronomical term for a red dwarf star.
- ❖ The purpose of the HAZMAT program is to help understand the habitability of planets around low-mass stars.
- ❖ The word "HAZMAT" describes substances that pose a risk to the environment, or even to life itself.
- ❖ The HAZMAT programme is an ultraviolet survey of red dwarfs at three different ages: young, intermediate, and old.
- ❖ Red dwarf is the smallest, most abundant and longest-lived type of star in our galaxy.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### UN Award for excellence

- ❖ Invest India, the country's investment promotion body, has won the United Nations (UN) Award for excellence in promoting investments in sustainable development.
- ❖ It has been awarded for excellence in servicing and supporting major global wind turbines company in establishment of blade manufacturing plant in India.
- ❖ The award was presented by Armenian President Armen Sarkissian to CEO of Invest India Deepak Bagla at the World Investment Forum, Geneva.
- ❖ Other winners of the award were:

- Bahrain Economic Development Board
- Lesotho National Development Corporation and
- South Africa (Invest South Africa)

### **UN Investment Promotion Award**

- ❖ The awards are given annually by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- ❖ It has been awarded since 2002 as part of its investment promotion and facilitation programme.



- ❖ It honours Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) and their governments for their achievements.
- ❖ The 2017 winners were Ethiopian Investment Commission, COFIDES of Spain, and Board of Investment of Mauritius.

### **2018 Seoul Peace Prize**

- ❖ The Seoul Peace Prize Committee has decided to confer 2018 Seoul Peace Prize on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ❖ He is the fourteenth recipient of this award and it will be presented to him by the Seoul Peace Prize Foundation.
- ❖ It was awarded to him in recognition of his dedication for improving international cooperation, contributions to the growth of Indian and global economies.
- ❖ It also credited 'Modinomics' for reducing social and economic disparity between rich and poor.



### Seoul Peace Prize

- ❖ It was established in 1990 to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul, South Korea.
- ❖ It was established to crystallize Korean people's yearning for peace on Korean Peninsula and in the rest of the world.
- ❖ It is awarded biennially to those individuals who have made their mark through contributions to harmony of mankind, reconciliation between nations and world peace.
- ❖ Past laureates include distinguished global personalities like German Chancellor Angela Merkel, former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

## **SPORTS**

### **Fastest to reach 10,000 Runs in ODI Cricket History**

- ❖ The Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli has become the fastest batsman to score 10,000 runs in the history of ODI (One Day International) cricket.
- ❖ He achieved this feat in his 205th innings against West Indies.
- ❖ The 29-year-old overtook Sachin Tendulkar, who had reached 10,000 ODI runs in his 259th innings, against Australia in 2001.
- ❖ Kohli has become the 5th Indian to reach the mark in ODIs.
- ❖ Apart from Kohli, Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, and MS Dhoni have scored over 10,000 runs in ODIs.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **United Nations Day – 24 October**

- ❖ The United Nations Day was observed across the World on October 24 marking the 73rd anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into force.
- ❖ The Day was observed since 1948 with an aim to celebrate everything that the UN represents and has achieved since its establishment in 1945.
- ❖ The 2018 UN Day Concert was held in the General Assembly Hall at United Nations Headquarters in New York.
- ❖ The Concert was sponsored by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations.

- ❖ The theme of 2018 UN concert was “Traditions of Peace and Non-violence”.
- ❖ United Nations Day is part of United Nations Week, which runs from 20 to 26 October.

### **World Development Information Day - 24 October**

- ❖ The World Development Information Day (WDID) is observed every year on October 24.
- ❖ Its aims to draw attention of world to development problems and necessity of strengthening international cooperation to solve them.
- ❖ The day has been observed since 1972, coinciding with the United Nations day.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly in 1972 established the World Development Information Day by adopting measures proposed by UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).

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