

October – 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India will be among the top 3 aviation market by 2024 according to International Air Transport Association (IATA) in its 20th year air passenger forecast report. India is currently at 7th position in the Global Aviation market.
- ❖ Wipro announced appointment of former State Bank of India chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya as an independent director. Her term will begin from January 1, 2019. The tenure of her term is for a period of 5 years.
 - She recently also joined Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) as an independent director.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has created a national record by opening over 16 lakh postal savings accounts under the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana.

NATIONAL

World's Highest Railway Line

- ❖ India railways announced its plan to link New Delhi and Ladakh by means of a railway line that will run along the India-China Border.
- ❖ The proposed Bilaspur-Manali-Leh Line would be the world's highest railway line once launched.
- ❖ The railway line will be the world's highest at 5,360 metres above mean sea level which is comparable to China's Quinghai-Tibet Railway Line at 2,000 metres.
- ❖ After the completion, the railway line will halve the time taken to cover the distance between Delhi and Leh from the current 40 hrs to 20 hrs.

NOTE

- ❖ Keylong station on the route will be constructed inside a tunnel at the height of 3000 metres which is a first in India.

STAPCOR – 2018

- ❖ International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018) was held at Bangaram Island, Union Territory of Lakshadweep.
- ❖ The theme of the conference was “Reefs for Life”.

- ❖ It was jointly organized by Department of Environment and Forest, Union Territory of Lakshadweep Administration with the technical support of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and in association with
 - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC),
 - International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN),
 - Environmental Information System (ENVIS)
- in consonance with declaration of year 2018 as 3rd decadal International year of Reefs.
- ❖ International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) has declared year 2018 as International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2018).

Experts' group to cut schoolbag weight formed

- ❖ Union HRD Ministry has constituted an Expert Group to formulate a draft policy to reduce weight of schoolbag.
- ❖ It will be convened by Professor Ranjana Arora of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- ❖ Maharashtra and Telangana already have a policy in form stating the weight of school bag not to exceed 10% of the students' body weight.

INTERNATIONAL

Pakistan announces first Human Space Mission

- ❖ Pakistan has announced that it would send a human to space for the first time in 2022 with the help of China.
- ❖ This plan was approved at the federal Cabinet meeting chaired by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.
- ❖ An agreement has been signed between Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) and a Chinese company.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PM launches "Main Nahin Hum" Portal and App

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the "Main Nahin Hum" Portal and App.

- ❖ The “Main Nahin Hum” portal works on the theme “Self4Society”.
- ❖ It will act as a single platform to help IT professionals and organizations to bring together their efforts towards social causes, and service to society.
- ❖ It would enhance collaboration towards the service of the weaker sections of society, through technology.

ENVIRONMENT

BIOFACH INDIA

- ❖ Union Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the 10th Edition of 3-day BIOFACH INDIA, the largest show on the “Organic Sector” in India, at New Delhi.
- ❖ It was organized by
 - Nuernberg Messe India and
 - APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority), Ministry of Commerce and Industryand supported by the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce.
- ❖ The theme of the BIOFACH INDIA conference being “Enhancing export of organic products trade from India – strategies and synergies”.
- ❖ India ranks first in terms of total number of organic producers and 9th in terms of world’s organic agricultural land.

STATES

Krishi Kumbh 2018

- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated three-day long Krishi Kumbh 2018 in Lucknow through video conferencing.
- ❖ Its objective is to enable technology driven solution to farmers and double their income.
- ❖ Krishi Kumbh is having,
 - Haryana and Jharkhand as partner states and
 - Japan and Israel as partner countries.

- ❖ Under this, the Government is providing 50 to 80 % discount on machineries to stop farmers from stubble burning.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Sanjay Kumar Mishra appointed ED Chief

- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Sanjay Kumar Mishra as chief of Enforcement Directorate (ED).
- ❖ He has been appointed as principal special director in the Enforcement Directorate and has been given additional charge of the post of Director for a period of 3 months or till the appointment of a regular incumbent.
- ❖ He replaces Karnal Singh whose term as ED director ended on 26th October 2018.

UN human rights prize 2018

- ❖ The United Nations has announced the winners of the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights 2018.
- ❖ It was announced by Maria Espinosa, UN General Assembly President.
- ❖ The awardees would be conferred in this year's award ceremony which will be held in UN Headquarters in New York, USA on Human Rights Day on December 10, 2018.
- ❖ The winners of 2018 award are:
 - Asma Jahangir – Pakistan's late human rights activist
 - Rebeca Gyumi – A Tanzanian human rights activist
 - Joenia Wapichana – Brazil's first indigenous lawyer
 - Front Line Defenders – A human rights organisation of Ireland

2018 Winners Background

- ❖ Asma Jahangir was the first woman to serve as the president of the Supreme Court Bar association of Pakistan.
- ❖ She is the 4th Pakistani woman to receive this prestigious award.
- ❖ Gyumi won the UNICEF Global Goals award in 2016 and was named the Woman of the Year by New African Women Magazine.



- ❖ Wapichana became the 1st indigenous woman to be elected to the Congress in Brazil.
- ❖ Front Line Defenders is an Ireland-based charity that was founded in Ireland's Dublin in 2001.

UN Human Rights Prize

- ❖ These awards were instituted by the General Assembly of United Nations in 1966
- ❖ The first awards were given in 1968 and are given every five years since then.

SPORTS

World Wrestling Championships 2018

- ❖ The 2018 World Wrestling Championships were 15th edition of World Wrestling Championships of combined events held from October 20 to 28 in Budapest, Hungary.
- ❖ It is an amateur wrestling world championship event organised by the United World Wrestling.
- ❖ In the 2018 event, Japan won the most medals with 10 medals. Russia comes second with 8 medals.
- ❖ India is at the 17th place with 2 medals – 1 silver and 1 bronze.
- ❖ Bajrang Punia bagged the silver medal.
- ❖ Pooja Dhanda won Bronze medal and became 4th Indian woman to win a medal at the World Wrestling Championship.
