

November – 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Railway has eliminated all Unmanned Level Crossings (UMLCs) on Broad Gauge routes (rails separated by 1676 mm or 1.67m of distance) from 12 of its total 16 zones.
- ❖ The Odisha Government launched Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Policy 2018. The policy is aimed to carry forward process of industrialization through promotion of aerospace and defence manufacturing enterprises.
- ❖ The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) has issued special stamps with Diyas lamps (special event sheet) to commemorate India's Hindu festival of Diwali.
- ❖ India and Malawi have signed 3 MoUs on Extradition Treaty, cooperation in the field of Atomic Energy for peaceful purposes and VISA Waiver for Diplomatic and Official Passports.
 - These MoUs were signed during the visit of Indian Vice President Venkaiah Naidu to Malawi.
- ❖ New York's iconic Empire State Building was lit in orange for the first time to celebrate Diwali. It was organised by the Federation of Indian Associations in cooperation with the Empire State Realty Trust.

INTERNATIONAL

Strategic partnership to eliminate hunger

- ❖ The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) and the Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group have formed the strategic partnership to support the efforts for eliminating hunger globally by 2030.
- ❖ Under this agreement, Alibaba Cloud, the cloud computing arm of Alibaba, will work with WFP to develop digital "World Hunger Map".
- ❖ The map will help to monitor global hunger and operations to end scourge by 2030 which is one of UN's key Sustainable Development goals.
- ❖ It also aims to boost efficiency of interventions and shorten emergency response times.

US exempts India from imposition of sanctions

- ❖ The United States has exempted India from imposition of certain sanctions for
 - The development of strategically-located Chabahar port in Iran, along with
 - Construction of railway line connecting it with the landlocked Afghanistan.
- ❖ The decision comes after US imposed toughest ever sanctions on Iran under Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act, 2012.
- ❖ This exception relates to reconstruction assistance and economic development for Afghanistan.

Pakistan - China Luxury Bus Service

- ❖ Pakistan and China have launched a luxury bus service passing through PoK (Pakistan occupied Kashmir) from Lahore to Kashgar city in China's Xinjiang province.
- ❖ The Kashgar-bound bus left on its maiden journey from Gulberg in Lahore on 05.11.2018.
- ❖ It is the part of an initiative to connect the two countries via road under the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

ECONOMY

Ordinance to amend Companies Act, 2013

- ❖ Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for promulgation of ordinance to amend the Companies Act, 2013.
- ❖ In this regard, the President has given his assent under Article 123 and it has been promulgated.
- ❖ The amendments to the Act are aimed to promote ease of doing business as well as to ensure better compliance levels.
- ❖ The ordinance to change Companies Act seeks to declog National Company Law Tribunals (NCLTs) and decriminalise minor offences by the companies.
- ❖ The ordinance will transfer 90% of the cases to regional directors under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs from NCLTs.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

India's first indigenous microprocessor

- ❖ The researchers from IIT Madras have designed India's first indigenous microprocessor called 'Shakti'.
- ❖ It is aimed at
 - Developing industrial-grade microprocessors and other components of the microprocessor ecosystem.
 - Reducing dependency on imported microchips and risk of cyber-attacks.
- ❖ It has been developed under project partly funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- ❖ Its design originates from open source Instruction Set Architecture (ISA), a set of basic instructions called RISC-V (Reduced Instruction Set Computer), which makes it customisable to any device.
- ❖ IIT-Madras researchers are now conducting research on 'Parashakti', an advanced microprocessor for supercomputers.

STATES

Saura Jalnidhi scheme

- ❖ The Odisha Government has launched Saura Jalnidhi scheme to encourage use of solar energy in irrigation by farmers.
- ❖ Under this scheme, farmers will be given 90% subsidy and 5,000 solar pumps.
- ❖ The beneficiary of this scheme will be farmers who have valid farmer identity cards and have minimum 0.5 acres of agricultural land.

Ayodhya Deepotsav 2018

- ❖ Ayodhya Deepotsav 2018, an event organised to mark Diwali celebrations in Ayodhya town - has entered Guinness Book of World Records.
- ❖ It entered the Guinness Book of Record for lighting as many as 3,01,152 earthen lamps, on the bank of River Sarayu.
- ❖ The previous record was held by Dera Sacha Sauda, which had organised the largest display of 1,50,009 diyas in Sirsa (Haryana) in 2016.

- ❖ The Deepotsav is an initiative by the Tourism and Cultural Department of Uttar Pradesh to celebrate Lord Rama's victory over Ravana and return to his kingdom in Ayodhya.

Assam Police – award for “good practices” under “CCTNS”

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has awarded the Assam Police for “good practices” under the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS), an e-governance project.
- ❖ The award was given for citizen centric service delivery, in which the state police has automated
 - passport verification and
 - Permanent Residential Certificate (PRC)services using the online CCTNS.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

IPI-India Award for excellence in journalism 2018

- ❖ Namrata Biji Ahuja of The Week magazine has been awarded the IPI (International Press Institute) India Award for excellence in journalism 2018.
- ❖ Namrata Biji Ahuja is a senior special correspondent with The Week magazine.
- ❖ She has received this award for her exclusive story on Nagaland underground camps.
- ❖ The award consisted of a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh, a trophy and a citation.
- ❖ The jury was headed by former Attorney-General of India Soli Sorabjee.

IPI-India Award for excellence in journalism

- ❖ IPI India instituted the annual award in 2003 to recognise and honour the best work by an Indian media organisation or journalists.
- ❖ The group gave the first award to The Indian Express for its reporting on riots in Gujarat in 2002 and their aftermath.

SPORTS

Ekana cricket stadium renamed after Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh Government has decided to rename the newly-built Ekana International Stadium in the capital city Lucknow after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ❖ The stadium will be hereafter known as 'Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Cricket Stadium'.
- ❖ The stadium hosted its first-ever international cricket match – T20 International between India and West Indies.

First batsman to hit four T20I hundreds

- ❖ Rohit Sharma recently became the first batsman to hit four T20-International hundreds.
- ❖ He achieved this feat in the 2nd T20 international against West Indies held at Lucknow.
- ❖ He also became the first captain to score two T20I hundreds.
- ❖ Rohit is also the only batsman to hit three double hundreds in ODI cricket.


