

**November – 29**

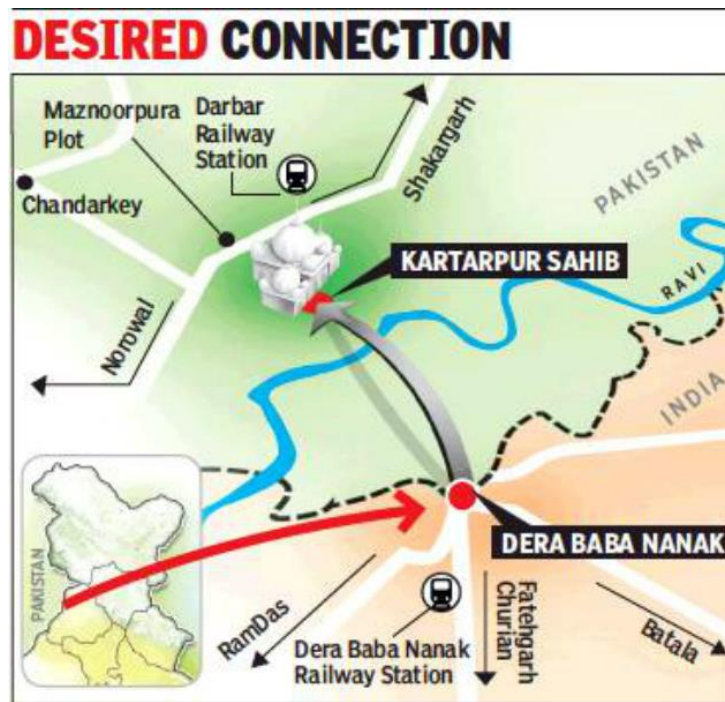
## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ India's **Harmanpreet Kaur** was named the **captain of the ICC Women's World Twenty20 XI**, chosen by an ICC Selection panel in Dubai. Indian **opener Smriti Mandhana** and leg-spinner **Poonam Yadav** are the other Indian's featured players in the list.
- ❖ The World's first ever underground luxury hotel named - The InterContinental Shanghai Wonderland - opened in Songjiang district, southwest of Shanghai, China.
- ❖ The first-ever India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue was held at St. Petersburg in Russia. The Indian side was led by **NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar** and the Russian delegation was headed by the Economic Development Minister Maxim Oreshkin.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Kartarpur Sahib corridor**

- ❖ The Vice President of India laid the foundation stone for the construction of the **Kartarpur corridor on Indian side** at Mann village in Gurdaspur district, Punjab.
- ❖ The corridor will provide visa free passage to the Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit holy site of Gurudwara Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur in Pakistan.
- ❖ This corridor will link India's border district of Gurdaspur with **Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan**.
- ❖ Gurudwara Darbar Sahib is the 16th century Gurudwara located on the banks of the **river Ravi** in Shakargarh in Narowal district of Punjab province of Pakistan.
- ❖ The project corridor is to be developed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and will be funded by the Government of India.
- ❖ The decision to build the passage was taken by the Union Cabinet to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev next year (2019).



## ECONOMY

### ACROSS scheme

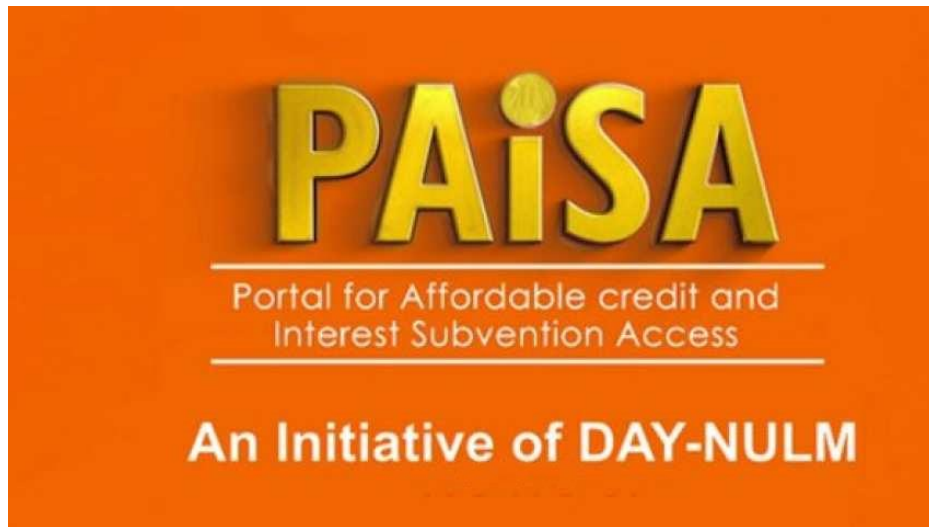
- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the continuation of 9 sub-schemes of the umbrella scheme “Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)” during 2017-2020.
- ❖ The scheme aims at improving the skill of weather and climate forecast through sustained observations, intensive Research & Development.
- ❖ The scheme pertains to the atmospheric science programs of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Government launches ‘PAiSA’ Portal

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched ‘PAiSA’ Portal, a portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access.

- ❖ It has been launched during the National Workshop on Municipal Finance and Urban Planning held in New Delhi.
- ❖ 'PaiSA' stands for **"Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access"**.
- ❖ It is a centralised electronic platform for quicker processing of loans under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).
- ❖ It aims to connect directly with beneficiaries and ensure there is greater efficiency in the delivery of services.
- ❖ It has been designed and developed by the Allahabad Bank, the nodal bank under the scheme.



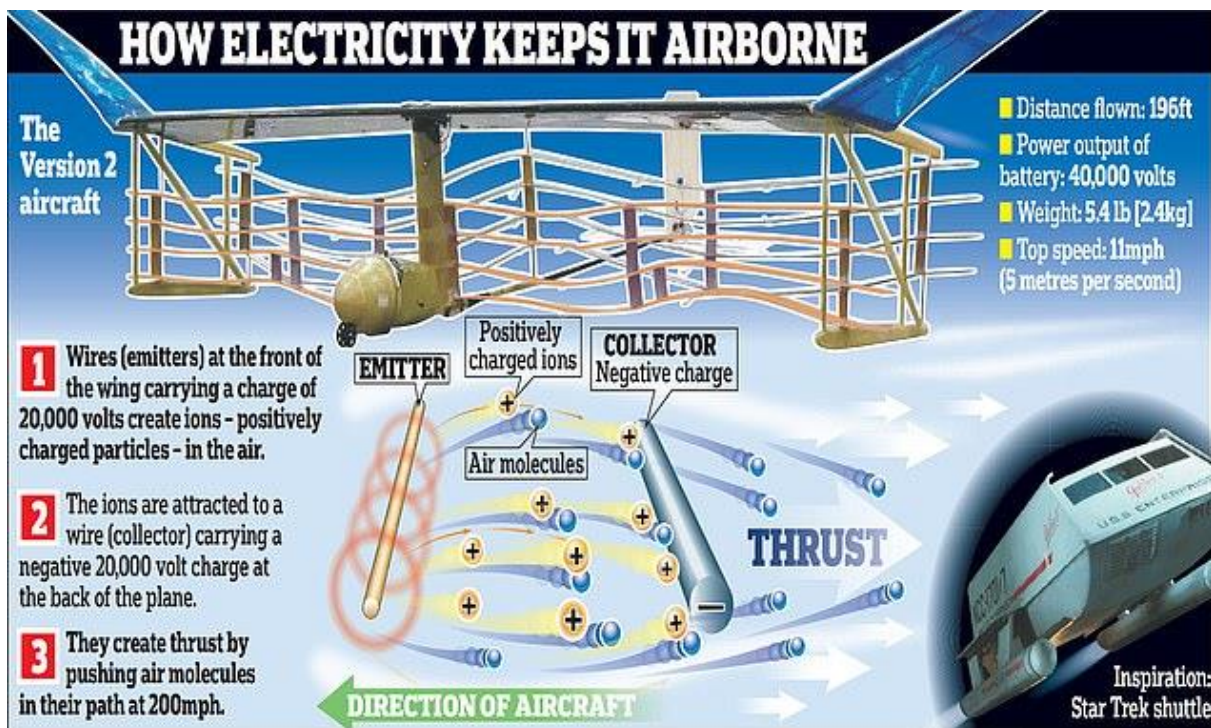
### **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme launched**

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has launched a new state-of-the-art information platform to monitor public health surveillance in 7 states in New Delhi.
- ❖ The initiative called Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) is a segment of the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP).
- ❖ It is the first one-of-its-kind initiative launched by the Central Government to monitor the public health surveillance.
- ❖ It is a real time, village wise, case based electronic health information system with GIS tagging to provide prompt prevention and control of epidemic prone diseases.

- ❖ It will provide near-real-time data to policy makers for detecting outbreaks, reducing the morbidity and mortality and lessening disease burden in populations.

### First-Ever Silent Plane

- ❖ The scientists from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have built and flown the first-ever silent airplane with no moving propellers or jet turbines.
- ❖ It is the first-ever plane having no moving parts in propulsion system, as it does not carry propellers or turbines and also not depends on fossil fuels to fly.
- ❖ At present, every aircraft has moving parts such as propellers, turbine blades powered by combustion of fossil fuels producing a whining buzz.
- ❖ It is inspired from movie and television series “Star Trek”.
- ❖ It is powered by ionic wind or electrodynamic thrust, a silent but mighty flow of ions that is produced aboard plane.



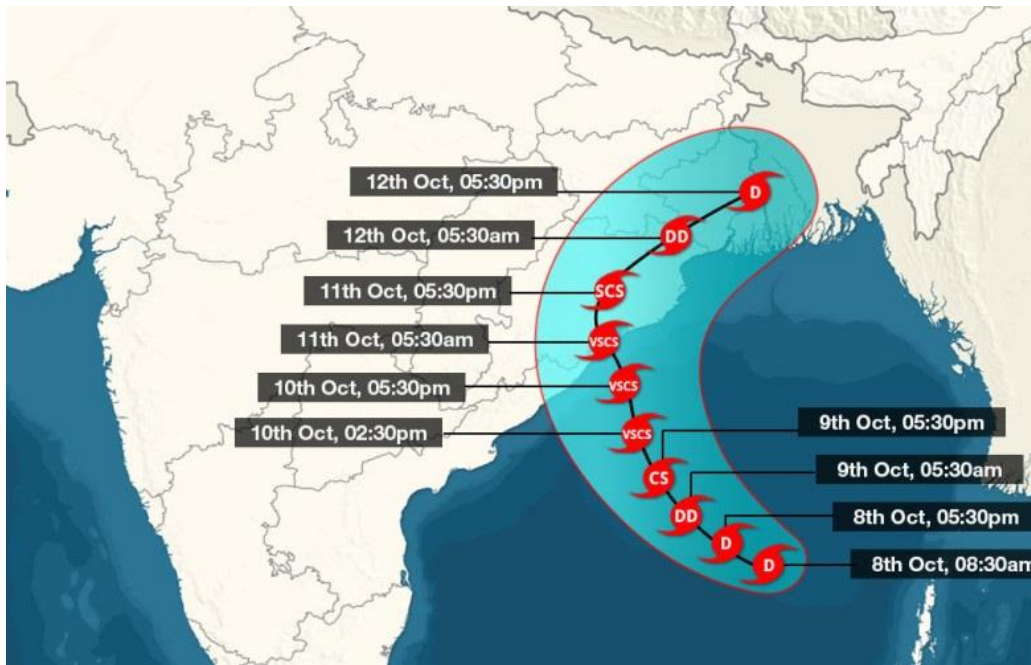
## ENVIRONMENT

### Impact Based Forecasting Approach

- ❖ The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has developed a new technology called 'Impact Based Forecasting Approach' to assess the rise of water level in rivers and reservoirs by rain.
- ❖ It shows pre-event scenario will help the state governments authorities to minutely monitor the impact of rainfall and take real-time decisions.
- ❖ It will help to avoid disastrous situation similar to Kerala floods.

### RIMES terms Titli cyclone 'rarest of rare'

- ❖ The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for Asia and Africa has termed the Cyclone "Titli" as 'rarest of rare'.
- ❖ The Cyclonic storms generally lose strength after landfall. Titli's track is unprecedented in 200 years of the cyclone's record.
- ❖ So far, only two cyclones in 200 years of recorded history that struck the Odisha coast retained full strength after landfall.
  - The 1999 Super Cyclone and
  - Titli.
- ❖ On October 11, Cyclone Titli made a landfall in the Andhra Pradesh coast and entered into the Gajapati district of Odisha.
- ❖ After that it made a surprise turn towards adjoining districts and continued as a severe cyclonic storm and deep depression for more than 48 hours.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Chairperson of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board

- ❖ The Union Government has appointed renowned scientist Nageshwara Rao Guntur as the Chairperson of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).
- ❖ His appointment as the AERB chairperson will be for 3 years.

### Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)

- ❖ It was established in November 1983 and it is headquartered at Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ❖ It was constituted by the President of India by exercising powers conferred by the Section 27 of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.
- ❖ Its mission is to ensure that use of ionising radiation and nuclear energy in India does not cause undue risk to health and environment.
- ❖ Currently, it consists of full-time Chairman, an ex officio Member, three part-time Members and the Secretary.

### **New Chief Election Commissioner**

- ❖ The President has appointed senior IAS officer Sunil Arora as the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).
- ❖ He will be the 23rd CEC and shall succeed OP Rawat who retires in December 2018.
- ❖ He will have nearly two-and-a-half-year tenure as CEC and General Election 2019 will be conducted under his stewardship.

### **Convenor of Task Force**

- ❖ The Union Finance Ministry has appointed Akhilesh Ranjan, a member of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) as the Convenor of Task Force that is drafting New Direct Tax Legislation (Law).
- ❖ He will replace Arbind Modi who retired in September 2018.
- ❖ The task force was constituted in November 2017.
- ❖ It has been constituted to review the Income-tax Act, 1961 and to draft a new direct tax law in consonance with the economic needs of the country.

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