

December - 02

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The **3rd India-Singapore Defence Minister dialogue (DMD)** was held recently in **Visakhapatnam**. The meeting was co-chaired by the Defence ministers of the 2 countries.
 - The 4th Defence Minister's dialogue was announced to be held in Singapore in 2019.
- ❖ India and Nepal decided to set up a hotline to ensure effective coordination to combat smuggling, improve border management and facilitate trade.
- ❖ The Embassy of India in Nepal and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized a 3-day exhibition of construction equipment and technology-ConMac 2018 in Bhaktapur near Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ❖ The **1st offshore wind investment conference** was held in **New Delhi**, during which the **European Investment Bank (EIB)** and **State Bank of India (SBI)** agreed to cooperate on financing renewable energy and wind energy projects across India.

NATIONAL

6th India Skills Report

- ❖ As per the **6th edition & 2019 version of India Skills Report**, **Andhra Pradesh** topped the list of states with the highest employability followed by Rajasthan and Haryana.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh is one of the preferred hiring destinations in India, with the highest employability in India.
- ❖ Employability has risen to 47%, with female employability at 46% and male participation at 48%.
- ❖ It was a **joint initiative** of
 - Wheebox, a Global Talent Assessment Company,
 - PeopleStrong, a leading HR Tech Company and
 - Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- ❖ It was supported and backed by renowned partners like
 - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),

- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and
- Association of Indian Universities (AIU).
- ❖ The report was launched in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

INTERNATIONAL

50th Union World Conference on Lung Health

- ❖ The International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) has announced that the 4-day 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health will be held in Hyderabad next year (2019).
- ❖ The conference theme will be: “Ending the Emergency: Science, Leadership, Action”.
- ❖ It would be held after the first ever United Nations (UN) High-Level Meeting on TB and the third UN High-Level Meeting on non-communicable diseases.

ECONOMY

J&K Bank under purview of RTI

- ❖ As per the Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) guidelines and the State Legislature, the Jammu and Kashmir bank were brought under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) act.
- ❖ The decision was taken by the State Administrative Council (SAC) chaired by Governor Satya Pal Malik.
- ❖ The objective of the decision was to strengthen better corporate governance.
- ❖ As per the proposal, hereafter, the J&K Bank Limited will be treated as a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU).
- ❖ It shall be accountable to the State Legislature like other state PSUs and the Annual Report of the bank shall be placed before the State Legislature through the State Finance Department.
- ❖ It is the only state government promoted bank in the country, with the Jammu and Kashmir government currently holding 59.3 % of the shares.

Carpet city Bhadohi gets 'export excellence' tag

- ❖ Bhadohi district of Uttar Pradesh, was granted the export 'excellence tag' for the product category 'Carpets and other floor Coverings'.
- ❖ The status was granted by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), under the commerce ministry.
- ❖ Under the 'Towns of Export Excellence' tag, carpet makers of the city will get financial assistance from the central government.
- ❖ The assistance can be used to procure modern machines, improve export infrastructure, and organise fairs and exhibitions in different parts of the world.
- ❖ Bhadohi district of UP which is known for its hand-woven carpets around the world.
- ❖ Bhadohi, which is near the river Ganges will be the 37th town in the country to get this status.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NASI-Scopus Young Scientist Awards 2018

- ❖ National Academy of Sciences India (NASI) SCOPUS Young Scientist Awards 2018 were presented to winners in New Delhi.
- ❖ This year five multi-disciplinary categories in awards were introduced.
- ❖ These categories aligned with national missions of Make in India, Digital India, Healthy India and Clean India.
- ❖ The NASI-Scopus Young Scientist Awards, currently in its twelfth year, is a joint collaboration between
 - Elsevier and
 - National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI)to celebrate the best and brightest young scientists in India
- ❖ The Awards program is part of Elsevier's global initiative to support young researchers in India

Awards	Winners
Agriculture, Plant Sciences and Rural Development	Dr. Jitender Giri (National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi)
Biomedical Research and Healthcare	Dr. Maddika Subba Reddy (Group Leader and Staff Scientist- V, CDFD, Hyderabad)
Environmentally Sound Sustainable Development	Dr. Vimal Chandra Srivastava (Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee, Roorkee)
Innovation in Engineering and Physical Sciences	Dr. Ajay S. Karakoti (Associate Professor, Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad)
Women in Science	Dr. Zhumur Ghosh (Bose Institute, Kolkata)

Enzymes developed using radio frequency

- ❖ As per study published in ACS Biomaterials Science and Engineering Journal, for the 1st time, scientists have developed enzymes using radio frequency radiation in Washington, USA.
- ❖ This was made by making a special complex consisting of enzymes and magnetic nanoparticles.
- ❖ After absorption of radio emission, it was converted to heat and enzymatic processes increased by more than four times.
- ❖ Thus, by using the radiofrequency field, one can control the activity of enzymes in the body and adjust cell metabolism.

Marathon

- ❖ Russia's state space corporation, Roscosmos planned to venture into the Internet of Things (IoT) with the launch of a new satellite system named 'Marathon'.
- ❖ The satellite system will be a part of Russia's Sphere satellite constellation, which will be fully established by 2026.

STATES

Jhiri Mela

- ❖ A week long 'Jhiri Mela' which is an annual event organized every year, concluded on 30 November at village Jhiri in Jammu district.
- ❖ The festival is to commemorate the martyrdom of Baba Jittoo, a farmer who gave up his life in protest against the oppressive demands of a land lord about 500 years ago.
- ❖ The governor announced the construction of a 'Sarai' (inn) at village Jhiri for the devotees.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Former US President George HW Bush Sr passed away

- ❖ Former US president George Herbert Walker Bush has passed away at the age of 94.
- ❖ He was the 41st US President (1989-1993) and father of the 43rd US President, George W Bush Jr.



- ❖ A one-term President, Bush Sr was a popular leader of a 32-nation coalition that dislodged Iraq from Kuwait in 1991 in 'Operation Desert Storm'.

- ❖ He ended the Cold war with Soviet Union with the signing of historic 'Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty' in 1991 with Mikhail Gorbachev.
