



February– 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the judicial complex in Amaravati.
 - This judicial complex will house the interim High Court for Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The First ever National Conference on “Prison Design” was held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Sopan 2019, 6-day long music and dance festival, was inaugurated in New Delhi to encourage the young artists to take up traditional art.
 - It was organised by Sahitya Kala Parishad and the New Delhi government, in partnership with New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC).
- ❖ Azim Premji, the Chairman of Wipro Ltd, was named to the Ernst & Young Lifetime Achievement Award.
 - Ernst & Young, famously known as EY is a multinational professional services firm and is one of the “Big Four” accounting firms.

NATIONAL

ASEAN-India Youth Summit

- ❖ Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the 2nd ASEAN-India Youth Summit in Guwahati.
- ❖ Theme of the 2nd ASEAN-India Youth Summit is “Connectivity: Pathway to Shared Prosperity”.
- ❖ The ASEAN-India Youth Summit is organised by India Foundation, in collaboration with ASEAN Secretariat and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- ❖ The first India-ASEAN Youth Summit was held in 2017 and the theme was “Shared Values, Common Destiny”.



INTERNATIONAL

Asian Infrastructure Finance Report 2019

- ❖ China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) released Asian Infrastructure Finance 2019 report recently.
- ❖ According to the report,
 - It expects the cost of infrastructure financing in India to increase over the next one year.
 - It sees slowing global economy, higher borrowing costs and geopolitical tensions leading to greater uncertainty among investors.
 - Infrastructure financing scenario in India has been dominated by public spending, while significant breakthrough in the mobilization of private capital for infrastructure is yet to be seen.

ECONOMY

New e-commerce policy

- ❖ India's new e-commerce policy came into effect on February 1, 2019. A new set of policy rules had been formed for the e-commerce companies.
- ❖ DIPP gave them a 60-day window period for aligning themselves to the government's modified foreign direct investment (FDI) rules.

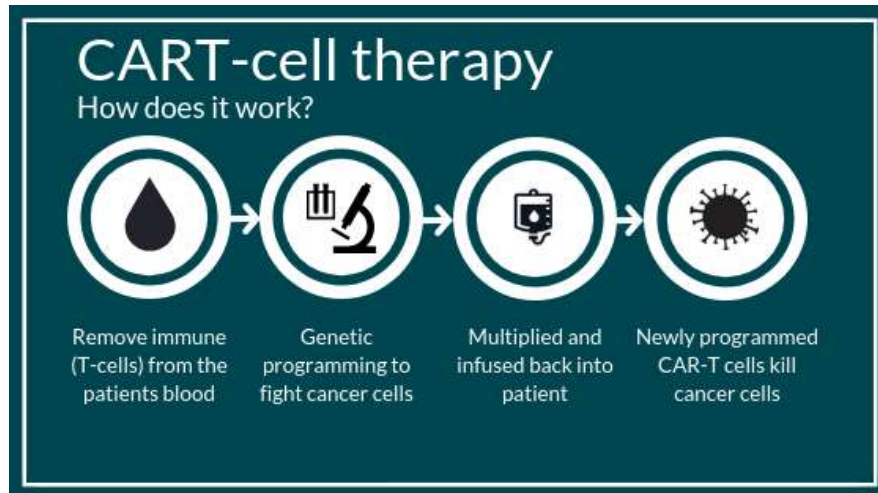
Highlights of the new policy

- ❖ Bar online retailers from selling products through vendors in which they have an equity interest.
- ❖ Also bars them from entering into exclusive deals with brands for selling products only on their platforms.
- ❖ All online retailers will be required to maintain a level playing field for all the vendors selling their products on the platform.
- ❖ It disallows e-commerce players to control the inventory of the vendors.
- ❖ It restricts marketplaces from influencing prices in a bid to curb deep discounting.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CAR-T therapy

- ❖ An 11-year-old Indian-origin boy has become the first patient to receive a pioneering new cancer therapy (CAR-T) by the UK's state-funded National Health Service.
- ❖ CAR-T is a personalized form of cancer treatment.
- ❖ CAR-T involves removing immune cells and modifying them in a laboratory so they can recognize cancer cells.
- ❖ Immunotherapy is a treatment that uses your body's own immune system to help fight cancer.



- ❖ Blood taken from patient and the white blood cells are separated out in the first stage, the rest of the blood being returned to the patient.
- ❖ Then harmless virus is used to insert genes into T-cells, a special type of immune cell.
- ❖ These genes cause the T-cells to add a hook on to their surface, known as a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR).
- ❖ These engineered CAR-T cells - programmed to recognize and destroy the patient's cancer cells - are multiplied in huge numbers and then infused back into the patient.



ENVIRONMENT

Global assessment of environmental laws

- ❖ United Nations released its first ever global assessment of environmental laws.
- ❖ According to the report, the world fares poorly on implementation of environmental laws and regulations despite 38 times more green laws have been framed and approved in the last four decades.
- ❖ Almost 88 countries have adopted the constitutional right to a healthy environment and more than 350 environmental courts and tribunals exist in around 50 countries.
- ❖ But, failure to fully implement and enforce the environmental laws is one of the greatest challenges towards mitigating climate change, reducing pollution and preventing widespread species and habitat loss.
- ❖ Other problems behind the poor effectiveness and implementation of environmental regulations are
 - Poor coordination across government agencies,
 - Weak institutional capacity,
 - Lack of access to information,
 - Corruption and stifled civic engagement.

STATES

Price Monitoring and Research Unit

- ❖ Kerala has become the first State to set up a price monitoring and research unit (PMRU).
- ❖ It aims to track violation of prices of essential drugs and medical devices under the Drugs Price Control Order.
- ❖ This move comes more than five years after the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) proposed such a system for the States and the Union Territories.
- ❖ State Health Secretary would be the Chairman of the society and the Drugs Controller would be its member secretary.
- ❖ Its members include a State government representative, representatives of private pharmaceutical companies, and those from consumer rights protection fora.



- ❖ The society would also have an executive committee headed by the Drugs Controller.

Best Budget formulation Practice

- ❖ As per the survey of Transparency International, Assam occupied the top slot in the ranking of best practices followed by states in Budget formulation.
- ❖ It is followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
- ❖ Meghalaya, Manipur and Punjab figured in the bottom list.
- ❖ This survey is based on following 4 parameters
 - public disclosure,
 - budgetary process,
 - post budget fiscal management,
 - efforts to make budget more transparent and citizen friendly.
- ❖ Assam is the only state out of the 29 states and 2 UTs, which has published a Citizens Budget in the public domain.
- ❖ Assam government is the only government that has conducted budget awareness campaigns across 17 districts.

Kala Ghoda festival

- ❖ The Kala Ghoda festival, India's largest multi-cultural street festival begins in Mumbai.
- ❖ It celebrates 20 years of art and culture through cinema, theatre, dance, literature, and sculpture.
- ❖ Maneck Davar is the Chairman of Kala Ghoda Association.
- ❖ The festival hosted the exhibition at the Jehangir Art Gallery to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and some rich history of Mumbai.
- ❖ The theme for this year is "A Measure of Time".

Biodiversity Tags

- ❖ Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) recently introduced a biodiversity tagging system.

- ❖ It aims to ensure communities residing within the biodiversity zone to get Access Benefit Share (ABS) from their profits.
- ❖ The tag will show that the ingredients used are sourced from the nature.
- ❖ Sellers are supposed to pay 0.01 % of their annual profit to the GSBB.
- ❖ The board will then use this amount to protect the habitat from where the ingredients are.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Safer Internet Day – February 05

- ❖ Safer Internet Day is an international day observed every year on to create awareness for the risks of the Internet.
- ❖ It was created in 2004 by the Insafe Network of European Union.
- ❖ The Theme for Safer Internet Day 2019 is “Together for a Better Internet”.