

April 01

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Anti-corruption candidate Zuzana Caputova has won Slovakia's presidential election and become the country's first female head of state.

NATIONAL

Ballot Papers in Lok Sabha Election

- ❖ While the entire Country will vote in EVMs in the Lok Sabha Polls 2019, the people of the Nizamabad in Telangana will vote through Ballot Papers.
- ❖ For the Lok Sabha Polls 2019 in the Nizamabad Lok Sabha seat, there are 185 candidates in contention.
- ❖ As one EVM can accommodate only 16 candidates and a maximum of 4 EVMs can be used in one polling booth.
- ❖ So, the Election Commission is forced to switch back to the age-old practice of ballot papers.

Second joint logistics node of tri-services

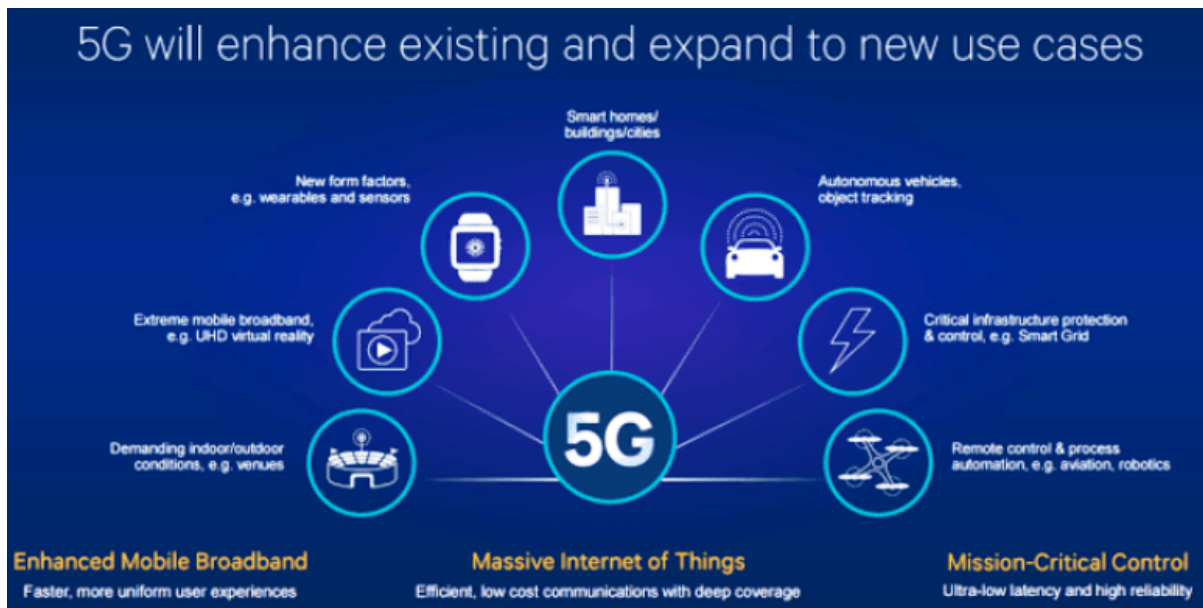
- ❖ The second Joint Logistics Node (JLN) of tri-services has become operational at Naval base in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ❖ It will provide logistical support to all three defence services and improve utilisation of resources, manpower and remove duplication.
- ❖ The first JLN consisting of the three services was set up at Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 2018.
- ❖ The third logistic node is in process and is likely to come up in Guwahati, Assam and it will only be among Indian Army and Air Force.

INTERNATIONAL

1st district with 5G coverage

- ❖ China's Shanghai claimed to have the world's first district with 5G coverage and a broadband gigabit network. It has conducted trial runs of the 5G network.

- ❖ The trial runs of the 5G network started in Shanghai's Hongkou district.
- ❖ 5G is the next generation of cellular technology with download speeds that are 10 to 100 times faster than 4G LTE networks.



Largest power storage system in Asia

- ❖ Tesla has developed its 'largest power storage system in Asia' at Osaka train station in Japan to reduce energy demand and provide emergency backup power to trains in Japan.
- ❖ It was launched in partnership with Kintetsu, a railway operator in Japan's Osaka.
- ❖ This 7 megawatt-hours (MWh) system is not only the largest energy storage project in Asia, but also the fourth largest in the greater Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

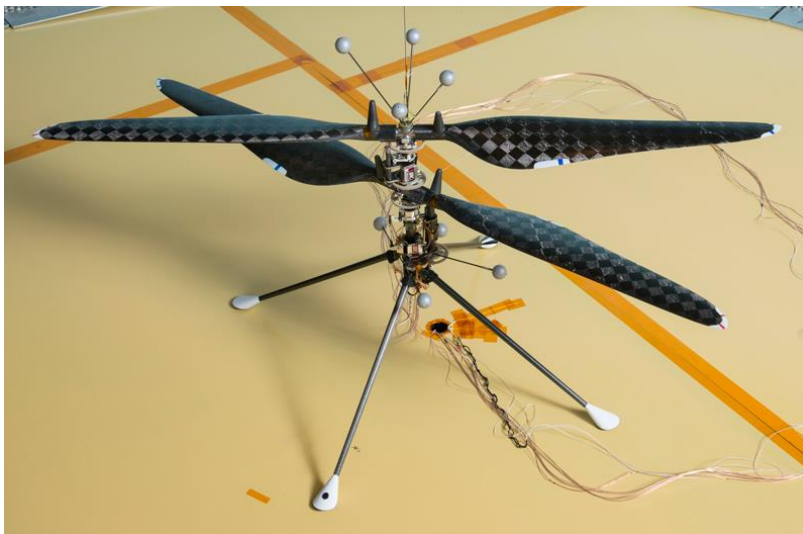
Toluene conversion into useful product

- ❖ Two-member team at the IIT Madras has successfully converted petroleum waste-product toluene into benzoic acid.

- ❖ A green oxidant and water instead of organic acid were used for converting toluene into benzoic acid.
- ❖ Benzoic acid is used as a food preservative (E210) and medicine for fungal/bacterial infection.

NASA's Mars helicopter

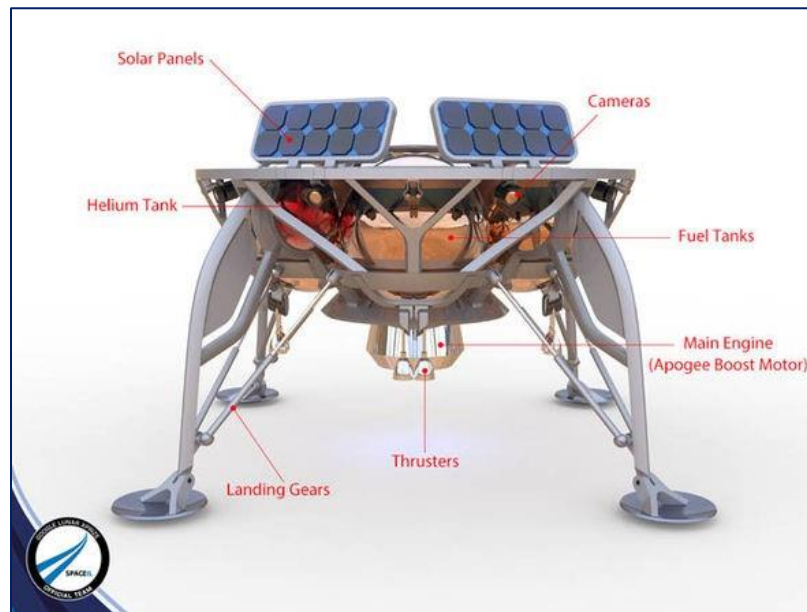
- ❖ NASA's Mars Helicopter has successfully completed a series of tests and is ready to take flight over the Red Planet.
- ❖ This Mars Helicopter will ride to Mars attached to the undercarriage of the Mars 2020 rover.
- ❖ This helicopter could function in extremely cold temperatures, including nights with temperatures as low as minus 90 degrees Celsius.



Moonshot Award

- ❖ X Prize Foundation announced a \$1 million “Moonshot Award”.
- ❖ That award will go to Israel’s SpaceIL, if its Beresheet spacecraft is able to successfully land on the lunar surface next month.
- ❖ SpaceIL was also competed for the Google Lunar X Prize.

- ❖ This competition offered a \$20 million grand prize to the first privately developed spacecraft to land on the moon, travel at least 500 meters across its surface, and return images and video.



STATES

App for first-time voters

- ❖ The district administration of Bongaigaon in Assam has developed a 'Sankalp' mobile phone application to especially reach out to the first-time voters.
- ❖ This has been developed by the Assam's Bongaigaon district administration team with the help of NIC (National Informatics Centre) to encourage the first-time voters.
- ❖ They will also be able to sign a digital 'sankalp patra', promising to cast their votes on the day of polling.

Ballot Paper in Braille

- ❖ For a first in Meghalaya, the Election Commission will facilitate more than 800 visually impaired electorates to vote by a secret ballot.

- ❖ Election Commission has made arrangements to issue braille-enabled ballot papers at all polling booths in the state.
- ❖ The ballot paper pasted on the electronic voting machines (EVMs) will have the names and symbol of candidates in braille alphabets.

Mobile methadone vans

- ❖ In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the AIIMS launched mobile methadone vans to provide treatment to opioid addicts in inner city neighbourhoods.
- ❖ As a pilot project, the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) of AIIMS has initiated the new service in East Delhi.
- ❖ Currently, such dispensing vans or buses are available in few select developed countries in the world, such as USA, Portugal, Spain, Canada and Netherlands.
- ❖ India is the first country in the South Asian region to initiate these services.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award

- ❖ RUJ Group's founder and chairman, Dr. Rajendra Kumar Joshi, has been awarded with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award.

- ❖ This award is given for his contributions in the field of science, education and medicine, promoting the honour and prestige of India.
- ❖ The Embassy of India in Switzerland, on behalf of the President of India, handed over a commendation letter and a medal to Joshi.

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award

- ❖ Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) is the highest honour conferred on Non-resident Indians by the President of India
- ❖ It was constituted by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs in 2003.
- ❖ This award recognises their significant contributions towards bringing honour and glory to India.



Peabody Career Achievement award

- ❖ Veteran actor Rita Moreno is set to receive 2019 Peabody Career Achievement honour.
- ❖ The Peabody Career Achievement Award is for individuals whose work and commitment to electronic media has left an indelible mark on the field.
- ❖ The award is presented by Mercedes Benz in the 78th Annual Peabody Awards Ceremony, co-sponsored by Coca-Cola Co.
- ❖ She already has a long list of awards, including an Oscar, a Tony, two Emmys and a Grammy.

- ❖ She is also one of the 15 people to win the coveted EGOT quartet of elite awards.



SPORTS

Azlan Shah Hockey Cup

- ❖ India was defeated by the South Korea in the penalty shootout of the final of Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2019.
- ❖ 17th Ranked South Korea defeated World number 5 India to win the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup which was held at Ipoh, Malaysia.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Odisha Day – April 01

- ❖ Utkal Divas, or Odisha Day is celebrated on April 01 every year.
- ❖ This day is celebrated to mark the formation of Odhisa province (Orissa state now) during British rule.
- ❖ The Odisha province was formed on basis on linguistic pattern of people in the area on April 1, 1936.
- ❖ It was the first linguistic province in India before the Indian Independence.
- ❖ It was previously divided into provinces of Bengal and Bihar.