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An Institute for Civil Services



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1 to 15 AUGUST, 2019

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1

ARMY LAUNCHES E CAR TO COMBAT POLLUTION**CONTEXT**

The Indian Army in step with government policies on environmental protection has launched an ecological initiative with employing E Cars for use of its officials in New Delhi in partnership with Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), a joint Venture of Central PSUs under Ministry of Power.

ABOUT

- The introduction of E-Car in Army at Delhi was visualized on World Environment Day and launched on 01 Aug 2019 with flagging off the first lot of E-Cars for Indian Army
- Army plans to operate the first batch of 10 E-Cars as a pilot project and develop further on this initiative and increase the number of E Cars in Delhi to ensure economy, efficiency and minimal emissions.
- It is pertinent to mention that Army has always been at the forefront of environmental initiatives.
- Indian Army has a large number of Territorial Army Battalions (ECO) which has done a yeoman service in environmental protection initiatives such as forestation.
- Army units posted in remote and ecologically sensitive areas from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari have been carrying out various activities in close coordination with local populace to conserve the ecological balance and protect the environment.
- Air pollution has been a major challenge in Delhi. Governments across the World are investing a lot of resources in fighting this menace. Electric vehicle technology has proved to be a viable alternative by reducing the carbon emission footprint.
- Army's initiative in encouraging these electric vehicles will go a long way in further development of this technology and its adoption for the general public in near future.

2

KABIL SET UP TO ENSURE SUPPLY OF CRITICAL MINERALS**CONTEXT**

A joint venture company namely Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) is to be set up with the participation of three Central Public Sector Enterprises namely, National Aluminum Company Ltd.(NALCO), Hindustan Copper Ltd.(HCL) and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd. (MECL).

ABOUT

- KABIL is to ensure a consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals to Indian domestic market.
- While KABIL would ensure mineral security of the Nation, it would also help in realizing the overall objective of import substitution
- The sustained source of mineral and metal commodities is imperative for the transportation and manufacturing segment.
- Further segments like Aviation, Defence and Space Research also require minerals with lower weight and high mechanical strength. Among such twelve minerals identified as strategic minerals, which have meagre resource base, Lithium Cobalt are significant
- The KABIL would carry out identification, acquisition, exploration, development, mining and processing of strategic minerals overseas for commercial use and meeting country's requirement of these minerals.
- The sourcing of these minerals or metals is to done by creating trading opportunities, G2G collaborations with the producing countries or strategic acquisitions or investments in the exploration and mining assets of these minerals in the source countries.

- The new company will help in building partnerships with other mineral rich countries like Australia and those in Africa and South America, where Indian expertise in exploration and mineral processing will be mutually beneficial bringing about new economic opportunities.

3

20 INSTITUTION RECOMMENDED FOR STATUS OF 'INSTITUTIONS OF EMINENCE

CONTEXT

The UGC, in its 542nd meeting held on 02nd August 2019 has considered the reports of the Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) appointed by Government under the Chairmanship of Shri N Gopalaswami recommending (15) Public institutions and (15) Private institutions for considering to give status of Institutions of Eminence.

ABOUT

S No.	Institution	World Rankings (QS 2020)	India Rankings (QS 2019)	Recommendation of UGC
1.	IIT Bombay (INI)	152	1	Already declared IoE
2.	IIT Delhi (INI)	182	4	Already declared IoE
3.	IISC Bangalore (Deemed Univ)	184	2	Already declared IoE
4.	IIT Madras (INI)	271	3	Recommended for declaring as IoE
5.	IIT Kharagpur (INI)	281	5	Recommended for declaring as IoE
6.	Delhi University (Central Univ)	474	8	Recommended for declaring as IoE
7.	University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad (Central Univ)	601-650	7	Recommended for declaring as IoE
8.	Jadavpur University, Kolkata (State Univ)	651-700	12	Needs consultation with State Govt. prior to consideration
9.	Anna University, Chennai (State Univ)	751-800	13	Needs consultation with State Govt. prior to consideration
10.	BHU, Varanasi (Central Univ)	801-1000	15	Recommended for declaring as IoE
11.	Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune (State Univ)	801-1000	19	

12.	AMU, Aligarh (Central Univ)	801-1000	33	
13.	Tezpur University (Central Univ)	Not ranked	36	
14.	Panjab University, Chandigarh (State/Central Univ)	Not ranked	49	
15.	Andhra University, Visakhapatnam (State Univ)	Not ranked	46	

4

DRDO SUCCESSFULLY FLIGHT-TESTS STATE-OF-THE-ART QUICK REACTION SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES AGAINST LIVE AERIAL TARGETS FROM ITR, CHANDIPUR

CONTEXT

Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) today successfully flight-tested its state-of-the-art Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAM) against live aerial targets from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur.

ABOUT

- Two missiles, developed by DRDO, were tested against two live targets meeting complete mission objectives of engaging the targets. QRSAM, with many state of the art technologies, engaged the targets at different ranges and altitudes.
- The systems have been tested in final configuration with RADAR mounted on a vehicle & missiles on the launcher.
- The systems are equipped with indigenously-developed Phased array radar, Inertial Navigation System, Data Link & RF seeker.
- The entire mission was captured by various Electro Optical Tracking Systems, Radar Systems and Telemetry Systems.
- The system is being developed for Indian Army with search and track on move capability with very short reaction time.

5

LANDMARK CONSUMER PROTECTION BILL, 2019 GETS PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL

CONTEXT:

The Parliament today gave its nod to the landmark Consumer Protection Bill, 2019 which aims to protect the rights of consumers by establishing authorities for timely and effective administration and settlement of consumers' dispute.

ABOUT:

- The Bill will replace the more than three decades old Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

- The bill, among other things, proposes setting up of a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.
- The CCPA would make interventions to prevent consumer detriment arising from unfair trade practices. The agency can also initiate class action, including enforcing recall, refund and return of products.
- The Bill also envisages simplified dispute resolution process, has provision for Mediation and e-filing of cases. The Consumer will be able to file cases in the nearest commission under the jurisdiction of which he resides.
- For the first time there will be an exclusive law dealing with Product Liability. A manufacturer or product service provider or product seller will now be responsible to compensate for injury or damage caused by defective product or deficiency in services.
- Additional swift executive remedies are proposed in the bill through CCPA. There are provisions for deterrent punishment to check misleading advertisements and adulteration of products. Product liability provision to deter manufacturers and service providers from delivering defective products or deficient services. The Bill also enables regulations to be notified on E-commerce and direct selling with focus on protection of interest of consumers.

6

UNIDO AND NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOLAR ENERGY TO PARTNER FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

CONTEXT

An agreement was signed today between the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to initiate a skill development programme for different levels of beneficiaries in the solar thermal energy sector.

ABOUT

- NISE and UNIDO will engage national and international experts to bring the best practices by developing specialized training material.
- The agreement is part of the ongoing MNRE-GEF-UNIDO project implemented jointly by UNIDO and to support capacity building and skill development of technical manpower in the Concentrated Solar Thermal Energy Technologies (CST) which are being used to replace conventional fossil fuels e.g. coal, diesel, furnace oil etc. and save costs and emissions in the industrial process heat applications.

7

E-ROZGAR SAMACHAR LAUNCHED TO SPREAD AWARENESS ABOUT JOB OPPORTUNITIES

CONTEXT

The e-version of Rozgar Samachar has been launched recently by Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar.

ABOUT

- It has been launched with a view to make aspirants aware of job opportunities in government sector including public sector enterprises.
- It will also provide information and guidance about admission and career opportunities in various streams through career-oriented articles by experts.

- It is expected to meet the emerging challenge of young readers switching to electronic modes of communication.
- Rozgar Samachar is the corresponding version of Employment News (English). Employment News is the flagship weekly job journal from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.
- It was launched in 1976 with a view to provide information on employment opportunities to the unemployed and underemployed youth of the country. The journal is published in English (Employment News), Hindi (Rozgar Samachar) and Urdu (Rozgar Samachar) and has a circulation of over one lakh copies per week.

8

NITI AAYOG TO LAUNCH THE FOURTH EDITION OF WOMEN TRANSFORMING INDIA AWARDS

CONTEXT

The NITI Aayog will launch the Fourth Edition of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards in the capital tomorrow on 9 August 2019. Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO NITI Aayog, Ms. Renata Lok-Dessallien, UN Coordinator in India and partners of Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) will be present during the launch.

ABOUT

- The Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards is being organized in collaboration with the United Nations to recognize women entrepreneurs from across India. This year's theme is '**Women and Entrepreneurship**', in continuation of the theme for WTI Awards 2018.
- Nominations for the awards will be opened immediately after the launch. WhatsApp has collaborated with NITI Aayog for WTI Awards 2019 and will be providing support amounting to US\$100,000 to the award winners.
- The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is a Government of India initiative by NITI Aayog to promote and support aspiring as well as established women entrepreneurs in India, assist and handhold them in their journey from starting to scaling up and expanding their ventures.
- It has more than 5,000 women entrepreneurs registered on the platform, more than 30 partners and, has committed funding of more than US\$10mn for these startups..

9

INS TARKASH AT BERGEN, NORWAY

CONTEXT

Indian Naval Ship *Tarkash*, a front-line warship of the Indian Navy, entered the port of Bergen, Norway

ABOUT

- The ship is part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet and is under the operational Command of Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief/ Western Naval Command, based at Mumbai.
- The port call by *Tarkash* at Bergen is a demonstration of India's warm ties with Norway. INS *Tarkash*, commanded by Captain Sathish Vasudev, is one of the most potent frontline frigates of the Indian Navy equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors
- During the port call, various dignitaries and government officials of Norway are scheduled to visit the ship. Professional interactions are planned with the Royal Norwegian Navy and Coast Guard towards further enhancing co-operation between the two countries.

- In addition to social engagements and sports event, best practices will also be shared between the Indian and Royal Norwegian Navies.
- India has cordial and friendly relations since 1947 with Norway. Bilateral cooperation between the two countries is progressed through the India-Norway Joint Commission Meetings.
- Indian Navy ships are regularly deployed as part of Indian Navy's mission of building 'bridges of friendship' and strengthening international cooperation with friendly countries. The ship visit to Norway comes amidst growing importance and convergence of national goals towards shared maritime interest and deepening of ties between both the countries.

10

RPF LAUNCHES "OPERATION NUMBER PLATE" ACROSS INDIAN RAILWAYS- A DRIVE AGAINST UNATTENDED/UNCLAIMED VEHICLES IN ALL RAILWAY PREMISES

CONTEXT

Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Indian Railways launched a Special Drive with a Code Name – Operation "Number Plate" to identify and verify all vehicles parked in Railway premises, circulating area, parking's and even in the 'No Parking' areas for longer duration.

ABOUT

- This was conducted as a special drive from 9th August to 11th August at 466 Railway Stations all over Indian Railways
- During the drive, 04 vehicles were recovered which were reported to be stolen and cases were registered previously by the Police.
- 3943 Vehicles were found parked unattended/unclaimed for more than 05 days in the authorized parking lots of Railway stations.
- Credential of suspected 894 such vehicles is being verified and suitable action will be taken as per the outcome of enquiry.
- Similarly, 2034 vehicles were found parked in 'No Parking' zones for more than 01 day. Credential verification of 28 such vehicles, which are suspected, is being inquired into.
- During the operation 549 vehicles were towed away and have been deposited with Police for further investigation.
- A fine of Rs. 59000/- have been recovered as the charges for unauthorized parking.

11

INDIA'S LARGEST RURAL SANITATION SURVEY LAUNCHED

CONTEXT

Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019 in the capital today.

ABOUT

- SSG 2019 will cover 17,450 villages in 698 districts across India and include 87,250 public places namely schools, anganwadi centers, public health centres, haat/bazaars/religious places, making it India's largest rural sanitation survey.
- Around 2, 50,000 citizens will be interviewed for their feedback as part of the survey. Citizens will also be mobilised to provide feedback on sanitation relation related issues online using an application developed for the purpose.

- An independent survey agency will conduct the survey in all districts and the results will be announced based on quantitative and qualitative sanitation parameters.
- Speaking at the launch, Shri Shekhawat emphasized on the huge success of the Swachh Bharat Mission in becoming the biggest behavior change programme in the world. He shared that with SSG19, the Mission is being taken to the next level, by focusing on solid liquid waste management and plastic waste management.
- A detailed protocol has been developed to guide the ranking of Districts basis their performance on key quality and quantitative parameters. The Jal Shakti Minister released the SSG 2019 logo, the SSG 2019 brochure mobile app and a dashboard for citizen's feedback. An audio-visual campaign, featuring actor Ajay Devgan was also launched at the SSG launch event.

