

05 March 2019

1. ISRO launched 'Yuva Vigyani Karyakram' for school children

- ISRO has launched a special programme for School Children called “**Young Scientist Programme**” “**Yuva Vigyani Karyakram**”.
- The Program is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones with the intent of arousing their interest in the emerging areas of Space activities.
- ISRO has chalked out this programme to “Catch them young”.
- It is proposed to select 3 students each from each State/ Union Territory to participate in this programme every year covering CBSE, ICSE and State syllabus.
- Those who have finished 8th standard and currently studying in the 9th standard will be eligible for the programme.

Topic- GS Paper 2 – Governance

Source-PIB

2. PM launched ‘One Nation One Card’

- Prime Minister launched the indigenously-developed **National Common Mobility Card**.
- The Indigenous Automatic Fare Collection System based on One Nation One Card Model i.e. National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) is the first of its kind in India.
- It will enable people to streamline payments of multiple kinds of transport charges.
- Dubbed as ‘One Nation One Card’, the inter-operable transport card would allow the holders to pay for their bus travel, toll, parking, retail shopping and money withdrawal.
- India’s First Indigenously Developed Payment Eco-system for transport consisting of NCMC Card, SWEEKAR (Swachalit Kiraya: Automatic Fare Collection System) and SWAGAT (Swachalit Gate) is based on NCMC Standards.

Related Information

Automatic Fare Collection System (AFC)

- AFC System (gates, readers/validators, backend infrastructure etc.) is the core of any transit operator to automate the fare collection process.
- The major challenge associated with AFC system implementation in India till now is the lack of indigenous solution provider.
- Till now, AFC systems deployed at various Metros are from foreign players.

Topic- GS Paper 3- Science and Technology

Source- The Hindu

3. BOLD–QIT project

- The Union Home Minister inaugurated the project **BOLD-QIT** (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique) under CIBMS (Comprehensive Integrated Border Management system) on India-Bangladesh border in Dhubri District of Assam.

Related Information

- BOLD-QIT is the project to install technical systems under the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS).
- It will enable BSF to equip Indo-Bangla borders with different kind of sensors in the unfenced riverine area of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries.

Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS)

- After the Pathankot attack, the government planned to stop infiltration on 2900 kilometres western border with Pakistan under the name Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS).
- Later they decided to implement it in other borders also.
- It involves deployment of a range of state-of-the-art surveillance technologies such as:
 - (a) Thermal Imagers.
 - (b) Infra-red and laser-based intruder alarms that form an invisible land fence
 - (c) Aerostats for aerial surveillance.
 - (d) Unattended ground sensors that can help detect intrusion bids through tunnels, radars, sonar systems to secure riverine borders.
 - (e) Fibre-optic sensors and a command and control system that shall receive data from all surveillance device in real time.

Topic- GS Paper 3 – Defence

Source- Indian Express

4. Crop burning raises the risk of respiratory illness threefold: IFPRI study

- The burning of agricultural residue — a contributor to north India's winter pollution — increases the risk of respiratory illnesses threefold.
- It may also be responsible for an annual \$30 billion (approximately ₹2 trillion) loss in terms of days of work lost in States affected by crop burning, according to a study by the IFPRI.

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

- It provides research-based policy solutions to sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition in developing countries.
- It is situated in USA.
- Its mission is to provide research-based policy solutions that sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition.
- IFPRI's builds on the strong base of work developed under the Institute's 2013–2018 strategy and focuses on five strategic research areas:

1. Fostering Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Food Supply

2. Promoting Healthy Diets and Nutrition for All
3. Building Inclusive and Efficient Markets, Trade Systems, and Food Industry
4. Transforming Agricultural and Rural Economies
5. Strengthening Institutions and Governance

Note:

- The Global Hunger Index was initially published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Welthungerhilfe.

Topic- GS Paper 3 – Environment

Source- The Hindu

5. India to tie-up with 4 nations to save rhinos

- India will collaborate with **Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia** to increase the population of three species of Asian rhinos, including the Greater one-horned rhinoceros found in the Indian sub-continent.
- The five rhino range nations signed a declaration '**The Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019**' for the conservation and protection of the species at the recently held Second Asian Rhino Range Countries meeting.

How declarations help Rhino?

- The declaration was signed to conserve and review the population of the Greater one-horned, Javan and Sumatran rhinos every four years to reassess the need for joint actions to secure their future.
- The declaration includes undertaking studies on health issues of the rhinos, their potential diseases and taking necessary steps; collaborating and strengthening wildlife forensics and strengthening of transboundary collaboration among India, Nepal and Bhutan for the conservation of the Greater one-horned rhino.

Topic- GS Paper 3 – Biodiversity

Source- The Hindu

6. Asmita scheme

- A year after the Asmita scheme failed to garner a good response due to complaints of poor quality sanitary napkins, the rural department has floated new tenders.
- However, this time, the pads will be rolled out only after government officials try them and give their nod.

About the Scheme

- It was launched by in Maharashtra government to provide sanitary napkins at subsidised rates to rural girls and women.
- The scheme covers adolescent girls aged between 11 and 19 years in Zila Parishad schools and rural women.

- The government followed the Bureau of Indian Standards to fix requirements for sanitary napkins in 2018.
- Asmita cards have been made for schoolgirls to buy subsidised sanitary napkins.

Topic- GS Paper 2 –Women Empowerment

Source- Indian Express

7. Centre for Disability Sports

- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for setting up of a Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh.

Centre for Disability Sports

- The Centre of Disability Sports would be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- The centre would create an improved sports infrastructure to ensure effective participation of persons with disabilities in sports activities and also enable them to compete at national and international levels.
- It will cover under Section 30 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 which enjoins the Government to take measures to ensure effective participation of Persons with Disabilities in sports activities which inter-alia, includes a provision of infrastructural facilities for sports activities for them.

Topic- GS Paper 2 – Governance

Source- The Hindu

8. Rice Knowledge Bank: a web portal

- Rice Knowledge Bank: a web portal launched under World-bank funded Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation (APART) project.
- An agriculture web portal dedicated to enhancing knowledge on rice production techniques and technologies, best production practices and state agriculture facts.
- It will help to bridge the gap between research and on-field rice production practices, this website is a digital extension service providing practical knowledge solutions, especially for small-scale farmers in Assam.
- Assam Rice Knowledge Bank (RKB-Assam) showcases rice production techniques, agricultural technologies and best farming practices based on the pool of knowledge from research findings, learning and media resources from AAU and IRRI.
- It serves to address the challenges for agricultural development by supporting fast and effective transfer of technologies and knowledge from the research laboratory to farmer's fields.
- In the North East Regions (NER) of India, rice occupies nearly 85% of the cropped area, and thus reliance on rice crop for boosting welfare in Assam is high.

Topic- GS Paper 2 – Governance

Source- Economics Times

9. Gurugram world's most polluted, 4 other NCR cities in top 10: IQAir AirVisual 2018 World Air Quality Report

- India's national capital region (NCR) emerged as the most polluted region in the world in 2018, a new pollution report says, with Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida, and Bhiwadi in the top six worst-affected cities.
- The report compiled and analysed by IQ AirVisual, a software company that tracks pollution worldwide, and Greenpeace, an environmental NGO found.
- Air pollution is likely to cause the death of an estimated seven million lives globally in the next year while costing the world's economy nearly \$ 225 billion.
- The situation is increasingly grim for South Asia.
- Of the 20 most polluted cities in the world last year, 18 were in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.
- Delhi is ranked 11th in the list; the only non-Indian city in the top five in Pakistan's Faisalabad.
- Beijing, once considered the most polluted city in the world, has shown remarkable improvement in air quality and ranked 122nd in the list last year.

Related Information

- The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) recently launched by Ministry of Environment and Forest in India seems to be improving on the data availability and transparency among other things which is another key aspect which helped Beijing fight the battle to reduce air pollution levels.
- The NCAP is a programme in the form of a report launched by the ministry of environment and forest (MOEF&CC) on January 10, 2019.
- This NCAP aims to reduce pollution levels by 20-30% till 2024 compared to 2017 levels in 102 non-attainment cities (identified by CPCB, Central Pollution Control Board based on older data till 2015).