Prelim Bits 25-05-2018

Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018

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- Council of Scientific & Industrial Research has been awarded the Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018 in the Government Research Organizations Category.
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- CSIR is a pioneer of India's intellectual property movement and a leader in terms of sheer volume of patents published.
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- CSIR's patent portfolio touches a wide spectrum of areas in science and technology, some of the top filing areas include: polymers and applications in medicine, materials, electrical industry, pharmaceutical research, fermentation, enzymes, catalysis and applications, chemical & biological treatment of water.
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- Every year, Clarivate Analytics – formerly the IP & Science division of Thomson Reuters - recognizes the most innovative companies in India according to patent-related metrics.
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- The evaluation is strictly driven by metrics for both patent volume (patents published) as well as patent quality (grant success rate, extent of globalization, and citations).
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SURYA KIRAN-XIII

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- Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIII between India and Nepal will be conducted soon.
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- The exercise will comprise of nearly 300 soldiers from both Indian and Nepal Army who would be sharing their experiences gained during conduct of various counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations in the past.

- Exercise SURYA KIRAN is a biannual event which is conducted alternatively in Nepal and India.
- Notably in the series of military training exercises undertaken by India with various countries, Exercise SURYA KIRAN with Nepal is the largest in terms of troop participation.
- The aim of this exercise is to conduct battalion level joint training with emphasis on counter terrorism operations in mountainous terrain.
- During the exercise, aspects of disaster management and joint effort towards relief work have also been included.

INSV Tarini Team

- Minister for Women and Child Development presented the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar2017 to the members of the INSV Tarini team.
- The crew of the Indian Navy Sailing Vessel 'Tarini' is a part of the Indian Navy's unique project 'Navika SagarParikrama'.
- It is an all-women team circumnavigating the globe, promoting ocean sailing activities in the Navy and depicting Government of India's commitment towards women empowerment.
- The Project aims to demonstrate the thrust of Nari Shakti on the world platform.
- The voyage also showcased the 'Make in India's initiative by sailing on-board the indigenously built INSV Tarini.
- All six members of the crew were trained for over three years under Captain Dilip Donde, who is also the first Indian to successfully carry out solo-circumnavigation of the globe between 2009 and 2010.

Samagra Siksha Scheme

- The Union Minister for Human Resource Development launched the 'Samagra Shiksha' - an integrated Scheme for school education extending support to States from pre-school to senior secondary levels for the first time.
- The Scheme is a paradigm shift in the conceptual design of school education by treating 'school' holistically as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary levels.
- Samagra' means a holistic approach to treat education as a whole and the Scheme is very aptly named as it sees school education holistically without segmenting it into various levels of education.
- The emphasis on Integration of two Ts - Teacher and Technology in the new scheme will help improve quality of education.

UGC (Online Courses) Regulations, 2018

- In a landmark reform in the field of Higher Education, University Grants Commission has approved UGC (Online Courses) Regulations, 2018 in its meeting.
- Higher Educational Institutions can offer Certificate, Diploma and Degree Programs in full-fledged online mode in only those disciplines in which it has already been offering the same or similar Programs /Courses at graduation level in regular mode (of classroom teaching) or in Open and Distance Learning mode.
- The online learning shall have minimum four quadrants: video lectures, e-content, and self-assessment and discussion forum to clarify doubts.
- The learners' engagement will be monitored via participation in asynchronous / synchronous discussions, assignment activity and Program involvement.
- These regulations will be made applicable from the academic session 2018-19.

- This initiative is a big step towards attaining the targeted GER of 30% by the year 2020.

Katra forest fire

- The pilgrimage to the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine resumed following a brief halt due to fire in Trikuta hills.
- Trikuta hills are the abode of Mata Vaishno Devi in Katra town of Jammu's Reasi district.
- The IAF choppers from the Snow Leopards and Daring Dragons units of the Western Air Command were deployed.
- The bambi buckets were suspended by a cable from the choppers.
- The 'Bambi buckets' carried approximately 2,500 litres of water from the nearby Reasi reservoir at a time.

Source: PIB, The Hindu, Times of India