

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act

- This draft model seeks to liberalize the trade in agri-products and livestock and will thereby help in doubling farmers' income by 2022.
- It replaces an earlier model law proposed by the centre in 2003 which the states were not keen to adopt.

Centre takes 10 new Swachh Iconic Places under Swachh Bharat Mission

- 10 places Gangotri, Yamunotri Mahakaleshwar Temple, Ujjain, Char Minar, Hyderabad, Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi, Goa, Adi Shankaracharya's abode Kaladi in Ernakulam, Gomateshwar in Shravanbelgola, BaijnathDham, Devghar, Gaya Tirth in Bihar and Somnath temple in Gujarat.
- These ten new iconic places which are included to a higher standard of Swachh Bharat Mission.

e-SOT, e-PRAN cards launched for Atal Pension Yojana users

- Through the newly launched online tool, APY subscribers can get account related information viz. pension commencement date, pension amount, transaction details, name of the nominee, name of the associated bank
- The subscribers of **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** can now have online access to their statement of transaction (**e-SOT**) and Permanent Retirement Account Number (**e-PRAN**)

AIIMS becomes India's first public hospital for Eye tumors

- The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has become the **India's First public hospital** to start plaque brachytherapy facility for the treatment of **eye tumors**
- It will treat children suffering from a type of cancer called Retinoblastoma and adults who suffer from melanoma.

UP government to set up anti-land mafia task force

- UP government ensure that the land mafia and the encroachers will not be spared and land or property grabbing can be stopped.
- The task force has been empowered to take action even against those who encroach on public land in the name of religion.
- The task force will be submitting a report on all illegal encroachments and action will be initiated against the criminal.
- Cases of illegal occupation of government land and construction of places of worship on these illegal properties are unchecked in Uttar Pradesh. A strict action would be taken against everyone who are found guilty.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Pakistan Hindus allowed to worship at Shiva temple after 20 years

- A Pakistani court allowed Hindus to worship at a **Shiva temple** in **Abbottabad district** which had banned to them for 20 years.
- The temple had been closed for any religious activity over a property dispute.
- Under section 20 of the Constitution the Peshawar High Court permitted Hindus to worship at the temple of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Yes bank ties up with Paisabazaar.com

- **Yes Bank**, a Private sector lender has announced a tie up with **Paisabazaar.com**. Under which the bank will offer conditionally approved loans to the existing customers.
- It aims to make the process of availing a loan easy and act as a one stop financial solution provider for all retail lending needs of the customer.
- It offers customer's financial marketplace with customized and conditionally approved offers across retail lending products.
- The bank will help through its advanced analytics and data mining capabilities.

AWARDS

Yes Bank receives prestigious Golden Peacock Award 2017 for innovative product

- Yes Bank is the 5th largest bank of the India. It gets the **award for its innovative mobile technology product, SIMsePAY** at the Dubai Global Convention.
- The Golden Peacock Awards, instituted by the Institute of Directors, India in 1991, are regarded as a benchmark of Corporate Excellence worldwide.
- The Golden Peacock Awards Secretariat receives over 1,000 entries per year for various National and Global awards, from India and over 25 countries worldwide.

RDPR bagged e-Puraskar award

- **Karnataka** Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department has bagged **e-Puraskar Award**.
- Kerala bagged the 2nd prize, while West Bengal secured 3rd prize in the category of ICT tools.
- The **Kodagu Zilla Panchayat** bagged the Deendayal Award for empowering panchayats.
- In the gram panchayat category, the Malige Gram Panchayat of Theerthahallitaluk of Shivamogga; Siraguppi GP of Athanitaluk in Belagavi district; Palibetta GP of Virajpettaluk in Kodagu; and Sampaje GP of Madikeritaluk, bagged the awards.

PEOPLE IN NEWS

Legendary Serbian writer for children, Rasa Popov, passed away

- He was a writer, publisher, actor and longtime broadcast journalist, associate of Mokrinski newspapers, star of children's TV show Tips & Tricks
- He received the Annual Prize of Radio Belgrade in 1967 for the series "Aspects of fascism."
- He has appeared in TV shows as a storyteller, some of the most famous are the "Joy of knowledge", "Tips & Tricks", "Varosarije", "In the dream the dream," "Bottomless hat".

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

China's first home-built aircraft carries hit water

- China has launched its first domestically built aircraft carrier. It helps in transferring the ship from a dry dock into open water in Dalian, a port city in China's Liaoning Province.
- China started developing the 50,000-ton carrier in November 2013 and its building process in the dock started in March 2015.
- This launch is going to be followed by the launch of China's next generation aircraft carrier Type 002, which would be sometime around 2021.

IITMK develops soil management app for Coffee growers

- This app is developed to provide soil nutrient information and fertilizer recommendation for coffee plantation owners.
- Farmers by entering information like geographic coordinates or their administrative divisions can check the soil property, nutrient status and fertilizer recommendations for their land.
- By using this app, the farmers can generate fertilizer recommendation, nutrient advisory and soil health card in English, Kannada, Tamil or Malayalam.
- GPS enabled soil sampling and nutrient analysis in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu to provide correct information to the coffee growers.
- It is done in India, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu that are the leading producers of coffee.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Wax worm caterpillar (*Galleria mellonella*) will eat plastic shopping bags

- Scientists have discovered that the larva called *Galleria mellonella*, can able to biodegrade one of the toughest, most resilient, and most used plastics known as polyethylene.
- In previous study has analyzed that *Plodia interpunctella* wax worms, the larvae of dipteran mealworms, can also digest plastic.

- Around a hundred wax worms were exposed to a plastic bag from a UK supermarket. Holes started to appear after just 40 minutes.
- After 12 hours, there was a **reduction in plastic mass of 92mg from the bag**. In previous discoveries bacteria can biodegrade some plastics just at a rate of just **13mg a day**.
- A common insect larva that eats beeswax has been found to break down chemical bonds in the plastic used for packaging and shopping bags at uniquely high speeds.

SPORTS CURRENT AFFAIRS

India wins 16 medals at US Open Karate Championship

- **India** has won 16 medals at US Open karate Championship and grabbed **3 gold 2 silver and 11 bronze medals**.
- Shaifali Agarwal, Abhishek Sengupta won a gold medal, silver in two different individual events.
- 2374 contestant from 42 countries has participated in the very prestigious annual Karate Championship.