



CURRENT AFFAIRS DATED ON 06 JULY 2018

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National Optical Fibre Network:

Why in News?

Tata Projects announced that it has bagged a Rs. 3,057 crore optical fibre cable network project in Chhattisgarh from Bharat Net.

The project, which will benefit about 2.6 crore people of the state, involves the laying of optical fibre network that follows ring architecture with Internet Protocol-Multi Protocol Label Switching (IP-MPLS) technology.

Benefits of NOFN:

Through this project, important services, including public distribution system (PDS), 102 (free ambulance service) and 108 (emergency service) would be effectively executed at gram panchayat level.

The project would bring improvement in the coordination between security agencies, help provide better health facilities, enhance the reach of banking services, help education initiatives through online portals and promote digital payments thus bringing rural population closer to the digital economy.

The government would be able to manage G2C (government to citizen) service and its 'schemes/development programmes' due to the increase in the reach of the general service centres.

About NOFN:

The **National Optical Fibre Network** (NOFN) is a project initiated in 2011 and funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund to provide broadband connectivity to over two lakh (200,000) Gram panchayats of India at an initial cost of 20,000 crore (\$3 billion).

It aimed at using existing fiber optical network of Central utilities - BSNL, RailTel and Power Grid - to provide internet connectivity to gram panchayats.



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The project intended to enable the government of India to provide e-services and e-applications nationally.

A special purpose vehicle Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) was created as a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Companies Act of 1956 for the execution of the project.

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Crew Escape System - Technology Demonstrator

ISRO carried out a major technology demonstration today, the first in a series of tests to qualify a Crew Escape System, which is a critical technology relevant for human spaceflight.

About Crew Escape system:

The Crew Escape System is an emergency escape measure designed to quickly pull the crew module along with the astronauts to a safe distance from the launch vehicle in the event of a launch abort.

The first test (Pad Abort Test) demonstrated the safe recovery of the crew module in case of any exigency at the launch pad.

After a smooth countdown of 5 hours, the Crew Escape System along with the simulated crew module with a mass of 12.6 tonnes, lifted off at the opening of the launch window from its pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota today.

The test was over in 259 seconds, during which the Crew Escape System along with crew module soared skyward, then arced out over the Bay of Bengal and floated back to Earth under its parachutes about 2.9 km from Sriharikota.

Benefits:

The Pad Abort Test [PAT] demonstrated the safe recovery of the crew module in case of any exigency at the launch pad.

PAT is a major technology demonstrator and the first in a series of tests to qualify a larger Crew Escape System of the future.



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The U.S., Russia and China which have sent human missions have developed their own systems.

ISRO has been readying technologies like pad abort — that are necessary for a future manned mission — as part of its R&D activities.

ICAT releases First BS-VI engine certificate

ICAT has completed the first BS-VI certification for a heavy duty engine.

The engine has been developed and manufactured indigenously by Volvo Eicher in India.

The successful completion of the compliance test of the engine, much ahead of the implementation date of 1 April, 2020, gives sufficient time for product stabilization in terms of making it more robust and cost competitive for the end consumers.

About ICAT:

The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) is a division of NATRiP implementation society (NATIS), under the administrative control of Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Government of India.

ICAT is the first of new world class centers established under the National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRiP) with the main objective of carrying out Research & Development besides extending homologation facilities in the field of Automotive Engineering.

ICAT is one of the prime testing agencies recognized by the Government of India as one of the accredited 'Type Approval and Homologation' agencies in India under Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR) and has also been recognized as Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), by BIS for Tyre Testing, Safety Glasses and by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for emission and noise testing of generator sets.



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ICAT has emerged as a comprehensive technical partner of the automotive industry.

About Bharat stage

Bharat stage emission standards (BSES) are emission standards instituted by the Government of India to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engines and Spark-ignition engines equipment, including motor vehicles.

The standards and the timeline for implementation are set by the Central Pollution Control Board under the Ministry of Environment & Forests and climate change.

The standards, based on European regulations were first introduced in 2000. Progressively stringent norms have been rolled out since then.

All new vehicles manufactured after the implementation of the norms have to be compliant with the regulations.

Since October 2010, Bharat Stage (BS) III norms have been enforced across the country. In 13 major cities, Bharat Stage IV emission norms have been in place since April 2010 and it has been enforced for entire country since April 2017.

In 2016, the Indian government announced that the country would skip the BS-V norms altogether and adopt BS-VI norms by 2020

Recapitalization of RRBs

Why in News?

Cabinet approves extension of Scheme of Recapitalization of Regional Rural Banks upto 2019-20.

Benefits:



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This will enable the RRBs to maintain the minimum prescribed Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 9%.

A strong capital structure and minimum required level of CRAR will ensure financial stability of RRBs which will enable them to play a greater role in financial inclusion and meeting the credit requirements of rural areas.

About RRBs:

- RRBs are jointly owned by Government of India, the concerned State Government and Sponsor Banks with the issued capital shared in the proportion of 50%, 15% and 35% respectively.
- RRBs were set up with the objective to provide credit and other facilities, especially to the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans and small entrepreneurs in rural areas for development of agriculture, trade, commerce, industry and other productive activities.

Nasscom inks MoU with NITI Aayog on research

The National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom), India's premier software lobby, on Thursday opened a Center of Excellence (CoE) for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence here.

Nasscom also signed a MoU with NITI Aayog to collaboratively foster applied research, accelerating adoption and ethics, privacy and security.

Supporting AI strategy

Nasscom would support the government's National Strategy for AI and will facilitate collaboration between NITI Aayog and CoEs.

It will also include NITI Aayog as a knowledge partner.



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Leveraging their skilling platform FutureSkills, Nasscom and NITI Aayog will together accelerate innovation and cultivate skilling in India.

The CoE initiative is a nationwide programme on innovation, focusing on solutions in smart manufacturing, automotive, healthcare, agriculture, energy, IoT, banking and financial services, retail, telecom, and host of emerging technologies.