Prelim Bits 05-03-2019

National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)

- It was launched by the Prime Minister in Ahmadabad, Gujarat.
- The first **Indigenously Developed Payment Eco-system** for transport consists of
    1. NCMC Card
    2. SWEEKAR (Swachalit Kiraya: Automatic Fare Collection System (AFC))
    3. SWAGAT (Swachalit Gate).
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs brought to the fore the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) to enable seamless travel by different metros and other transport systems.
- NCMC enables people to pay multiple kinds of transport charges, including metro services and toll tax, across the country.
- It is also known as 'One Nation One Card'.
- The inter-operable transport card would allow the holders to pay for their bus travel, toll taxes, parking charges, retail shopping and even withdraw money.
- It is a bank-issued card on debit or credit or pre-paid card product platform.
- AFC System (gates, readers/validators, backend infrastructure etc.) is the core of any transit operator to automate the fare collection process.

Yuva Vigyani Karyakram (YUVIKA)

- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has launched a special program for School Children called “Young Scientist Program” or “YUva VIgyani KAryakram”.
- It is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger in order to develop their interest in the emerging areas of Space activities.
- The students who have finished 8^{th} standard and currently studying in 9^{th} standard will be eligible for the program.

BOLD-QIT

- BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique) under CIBMS (Comprehensive Integrated Border Management system) on

India-Bangladesh border in Assam will be launched soon.

- It is the project to install technical systems under the CIBMS.
- It enables Border Security Force to equip Indo-Bangladesh borders with different kind of sensors in unfenced riverine area of Brahmaputra and its tributaries.
- The area has been covered with data network generated by Microwave communication, day and night surveillance Cameras and intrusion detection system etc.,

Fall Army worm (Spodoptera frugiperda)

- Fall Army worm attack poses a threat to food security and livelihoods of millions as it ravages crops in Africa and Asia.
- Also the Union government sent an alert to the Odisha agriculture department warning of the Fall Armyworm (FAW) infestation on maize cultivation in some states during Kharif 2018.
- It is an insect that is native to tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas.
- It mostly affects maize but it also feeds on more than 80 additional species of crops, including rice, sorghum, millet, sugarcane, vegetable crops and cotton.
- It was first detected in Central and Western Africa in early 2016 and has quickly spread across virtually all of Sub-Saharan Africa.
- In 2018 it was confirmed in India and Yemen.
- The trade and the moth's strong flying ability are the reasons for their wide extent.

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)

- USA has decided to withdraw India’s name from Generalized System of Preferences or GSP list.
- It is a U.S. trade program designed to promote economic growth in the developing world.
- It provides preferential duty-free entry for up to 4,800 products from 129 designated beneficiary countries and territories.
- India exported an estimated $5.6 billion worth of goods to the US under this program in 2017.
- The reason behind this move is that India has not assured the United States that it will provide equitable and reasonable access to its markets.

EWS in J&K

- President issued an order extending the benefits of reservation to

economically backward sections in Jammu and Kashmir.

- This would pave the way for reserving State government jobs to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir who are from economically weaker sections belonging to any religion or caste.
- The Central government's move came as Jammu and Kashmir is currently under the President's Rule
- It will extend benefits for the EWS in higher educational institutions and government jobs in addition to the reservation for the other categories.
- 10% reservation to economically weaker sections was introduced in the rest of the country through the 103rd Constitutional Amendment in 2019.

Source: PIB, The Hindu, Times Of India

