

05 September 2019: PIB Summary & Analysis

Mobile Science Exhibition (SCIENCE EXPLORER)

Context

- The Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge), Shri Prahlad Singh Patel flagged off the first-ever Mobile Science Exhibition (SCIENCE EXPLORER) for the entire Ladakh Region in Leh

What is a Mobile Science Exhibition (MSE) Programme?

- Mounted on a specially designed bus, a Mobile Science Exhibition carries a number of interactive exhibits related to everyday science.
- The MSE or Museo-bus travels from school to school in rural areas and organize exhibitions there throughout the year.
- Along with the exhibition, some other programmes like Sky Observation Programme through telescope, science films show, Science Demonstration Lectures etc. are also organised.
- The program has been fully funded by Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.

Objectives of the programme

- Popularize science and technology among the students and general public.
- Creating a scientific awareness in the society.
- Inculcating a spirit of enquiry among the young people.
- Inspiring youngsters to pursue a career in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- Supplementing formal education imparted in schools and colleges with non-formal science education.
- Promoting a culture of science in society.

National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)

- National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India is primarily engaged in 'Communicating Science to Empower People' through its network of twenty-five Science Centres/Museums spread across India.
- NCSM is the world's largest network of science centres and museums that functions under a single administrative umbrella.

CURTAIN RAISER: EX TSENTR 2019

Context

- Exercise TSENTR 2019 is part of the annual series of large scale exercises that form part of the Russian Armed Forces' annual training cycle.
- Russia holds a major military exercise every year at one of its four military Commands i.e Vostok (East), Zapad (West), TSENTR (Centre) and Kavkas (South).

About TSENTR 2019

- This year's Exercise TSENTR 2019 will be conducted by the Central Military Commission of Russia.
- Apart from host Russia, military contingents from China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan will also take part in this mega event.
- The exercise aims at evolving drills of the participating armies and practising them in the fight against the scourge of international terrorism thereby ensuring military security in the strategic Central Asian region.
- The TSENTR-2019 strategic measures will focus on evaluating the level of troop preparedness, the acquisition of the required skills and raising the level of interoperability and demonstrate the readiness of the participating armies.
- The exercise TSENTR 2019 will comprise two modules. The first module will include counter-terror operations, repelling airstrikes, reconnaissance operations and defensive measures, while the second will focus on offensive operations.

Institutions of Eminence (IoE) Scheme

Context

- The Ministry of HRD has taken various steps to implement the scheme of Institutions of Eminence (IoEs).

About the Scheme

- Institutions of Eminence scheme has been launched in order to implement the commitment of the Government to empower the Higher Educational Institutions and to help them become world-class teaching and research institutions.

Objectives of the scheme

- to provide for higher education leading to excellence and innovations in such branches of

knowledge as may be deemed fit at post-graduate, graduate and research degree levels and award degrees, diplomas and other academic distinction

- to engage in areas of specialization to make distinctive contributions to the objectives of the university education system wherein the academic engagement is clearly distinguishable from programmes of an ordinary nature.
- To develop the capacity of the students and the researchers to compete in the global tertiary education marketplace through the acquisition and creation of advanced knowledge in those areas
- to provide for high-quality teaching and research and for the advancement of knowledge and its dissemination through various research programmes undertaken in-house by substantial number of full-time faculty and research scholars in diverse disciplines
- to pay special attention to teaching and research in unique and emerging areas of knowledge, including interdisciplinary areas, which are regarded as important for strategic needs of the country but are not being pursued by conventional or existing institutions so far, and award degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions.
- to aim to be rated internationally for its teaching and research as a top hundred Institution in the world over time.

