

21 June

1) **Women Wizards Rule Tech' programme**

It is **a programme for women techies unveiled by NASSCOM**. It aims to increase the number of women in senior levels in the Information Technology (IT) industry.

The Women Wizards Rule Tech was announced in March at the Nasscom Diversity and Inclusion Summit in Chennai as a joint initiative by the Nasscom Sector Skills Council and the Data Security Council of India.

2) **India Smart Cities Awards:**

Nine awards have been announced under the India Smart Cities Awards.

India Smart Cities Award were launched on 25 June 2017 with an objective to reward cities, projects and innovative ideas, promoting sustainable development in cities.

- Eligible Participants were Smart Cities only, where respective ULBs / Smart City SPVs were to submit proposals.
- **There are 3 categories of awards-** Project Award, Innovative Idea Award and City Award.

3) The **National Testing Agency**, which is being set up to relieve the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) of the burden of conducting multiple examinations, will also train paper setters to set better question papers and provide better model answers.

In pursuance of the Budget Announcement 2017-18, the Union Cabinet, in November 2017, approved creation of the National Testing Agency (NTA) as an **autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization** to conduct entrance examinations for Higher

Education Institutions (HEIs) in the country.

4) **National Health Resource Repository (NHRR)**: The NHRR project aims to strengthen evidence-based decision making and develop a platform for citizens and provider-centric services by creating a robust, standardised and secured Information Technology (IT)-enabled repository of India's healthcare resources.

- ***The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the project technology partner*** for providing data security.

5) **Nuclear arsenals around the globe**:

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has released its 2018 edition of the yearly report on the current state of armaments, disarmament and international security.

- There are nine countries which have nuclear warheads. They include Russia, the US, the UK, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea.
- China continues to modernise its nuclear weapon delivery systems and is slowly increasing the size of its nuclear arsenal. The country now has an estimated 280 nuclear warheads. In 2017 report, the number was 270.

6) ***SIPRI*** is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament. Established in 1966, SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public. Based in Stockholm, SIPRI also has a presence in Beijing, and is regularly ranked among the most respected think tanks worldwide.

7) **UN Human Rights Council**: The United States withdrew from the

United Nations Human Rights Council accusing it of a “chronic bias against Israel”. Washington’s withdrawal is the latest US rejection of multilateral engagement after it pulled out of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

- The US problem with the body is twofold: the make-up of its membership and what it considers a disproportionate focus on allegations of human rights abuses committed by its ally, Israel.
- In 2006, when the council was established, then-US President George W Bush refused to join because the organisation included members accused by Washington of human rights violations.

8) **Cross-Border Insolvency:**

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) is planning to introduce a globally accepted and well-recognised cross-border insolvency framework, fine-tuned to suit the needs of aspirational Indian economy. The Government has taken initiative for Cross-Border Insolvency within the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (the Code) to provide a comprehensive legal framework.

As the size of the Indian economy grows, business and trade have adopted an increasingly international character. Creditors and corporates frequently transact business in more than one jurisdiction. Foreign banks and creditors finance Indian companies and Indian banks have foreign exposure. Also, as part of its Ease of Doing Business and Make in India policies, India seeks to attract foreign companies to set up manufacturing facilities in India.

9) **100th Smart City:**

- Shillong, the capital city of Meghalaya has been selected as 100th Smart City after evaluating the proposal submitted by it.
- So far, 99 smart cities have been selected in four rounds of competition and with Shillong, selection of 100 cities has been

completed under the Smart Cities Mission.

10) **Rani Rashmoni' commissioned:**

Context: The last of the five Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) project of Indian Coast Guard 'Rani Rashmoni' was recently commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard. The FPV was indigenously built by Hindustan Shipyard.

The FPVs are equipped with advanced sensors and state-of-the-art equipment and are designed to perform multifarious tasks such as surveillance, interdiction, search and rescue, anti-smuggling and anti-poaching, operations.