

29/05/18

1) **The Tata Trusts** has joined hands with the government to help it in development initiatives in eight worst Naxal-affected districts in Chhattisgarh, which were covered under the “**transformation of aspirational**” districts programme.

Transformation of Aspirational Districts’ was launched in January with an aim to quickly and effectively transform some of the most underdeveloped districts in the country.

2) The National Association of Software and Services Companies (**NASSCOM**) has launched its **second IT corridor in China** to cash in on the burgeoning Chinese software market which remained elusive despite the presence of top Indian technology firms.

The newly established **Digital Collaborative Opportunities Plaza (SIDCOP)** platform at Guiyang in China provides market access to Indian IT firms in the huge Chinese market.

3) **Green’ Cricket in India:**

The main aim of the partnership is to **spread greater awareness about key environmental challenges** that are facing the country and highlight alternate and more sustainable solutions.

Through the agreement, the BCCI will endeavor to reduce its environmental impact by greening its operations and engaging cricketers and fans in green initiatives.

As global host of **World Environment Day** in 2018, India is leading the global charge to remove the plastic pollution in the country, and around the world.

4) **Gaj Yatra:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) has rolled out the ‘Gaj Yatra’ from Tura,

the principal town of Garo Hills in Meghalaya. The event involves taking an elephant mascot across districts frequented by jumbo herds for generating awareness among the people. The role of **Nokmas**, traditional custodians of the land, is important here in supporting the move towards co-existence between man and animal and helping conservationists for the success of the initiative.

Gaj Yatra, a nationwide campaign to protect elephants, was launched on the occasion of World Elephant Day in 2017.

5) The Manipur government is all set to introduce the **Inner Line Permit bill** in the forthcoming monsoon session of the assembly. The Manipur Assembly had passed three bills in this connection in 2015 but the President did not give assent to one bill while the two others were rejected even as most tribals in the state had objected to the bills terming them as "**anti-tribal**".

• **WHAT IS THE INNER LINE PERMIT:** The Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document issued by the Government of India to grant inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period. It is obligatory for Indians residing outside those states to obtain permission prior to entering the protected areas

6) **S-400 Triumph air defence missile systems:**

India has concluded price negotiations with **Russia** for a nearly Rs 40,000 crore deal to procure S-400 Triumph air defence missile systems for the Indian Air Force. In 2016, India and Russia had signed an agreement on the '**Triumf**' interceptor-based missile system which can destroy incoming hostile aircraft, missiles and even drones at ranges of up to 400 km.