

## CURRENT AFFAIRS= 16-09-2020

### ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020

**Lok Sabha passed the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The Bill will replace the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance which was promulgated in June this year.**

#### **About:**

- The Bill seeks to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and empowers the central government in terms of production, supply, distribution, trade, and commerce of certain commodities.
- The bill empowers the central government to designate certain commodities including food items, fertilizers, and petroleum products as essential commodities.
- Supply of certain food items including cereals, pulses, potato, onions, edible oilseeds, and oils, can be regulated by the government under extraordinary circumstances as per the provisions of this bill.
- The extraordinary circumstances include war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamity of grave nature.
- The Bill empowers the central government to regulate the stock of an essential commodity that a person can hold.
- The provisions of the bill regarding the regulation of food items and the imposition of stock limits will however not apply to any government order relating to the Public Distribution System or the Targeted Public Distribution System.

### INDIAN TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (ITEC) PROGRAMME

**The 56th ITEC day was observed online by the High Commission of India in Dhaka on September 15, 2020.**

#### **About:**

- The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme was instituted by a decision of the Indian Cabinet in 1964 as a flagship programme of

the Government of India to provide development assistance to developing countries across the globe.



ITEC is administered by the Ministry of External Affairs, India and is fully funded by the Government of India.

More than 10,000 training slots are offered every year to more than 160 partner countries for training courses in various areas like Accounts, Audit, Management, SME, Rural Development, Parliamentary Affairs etc.

- Under ITEC and its sister programme SCAAP (Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme), 161 countries in Asia, Africa, East Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean as well as Pacific and Small Island countries are invited to share in the Indian developmental experience
- The ITEC/SCAAP Programme has the following components:
  - Training (civilian and defence) in India of nominees from ITEC partner countries;
  - Projects and project related activities such as feasibility studies and consultancy services;
  - Deputation of Indian experts abroad;
  - Study Tours;
  - Gifts/Donations of equipment at the request of ITEC partner countries; and
  - Aid for Disaster Relief .

## **NATIONAL HIGHWAYS EXCELLENCE AWARDS, 2020**

**The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has invited proposals for the National Highways Excellence Awards for the year 2020.**

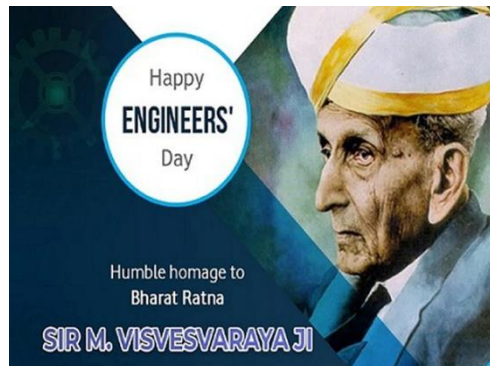
### **About:**

- The awards are given every year in seven categories, Excellence in Project Management, Excellence in Operation and Maintenance, Green Highway, Innovation, Excellence in Highway Safety, Excellence in Toll Management and Outstanding Work in Challenging Conditions.

- The awards were instituted in the year 2018.
- The aim is to recognise companies which are performing exceptionally well in the construction, operations, maintenance and tolling stages of highway development as well as in the arena of road safety.

## ENGINEERS' DAY

### The Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted engineers on Engineers' Day .



#### About:

Visvesvaraya (1861 – 1962) was an Indian engineer, scholar, statesman.

He was the chief engineer responsible for the construction of the **Krishna Raja Sagara dam in Mandya district**. He was also the chief designer of the flood protection system for the city of Hyderabad.

- He also served as the **Diwan of Mysore from 1912 to 1918**. It was during his period as Dewan that the Mysore Soap Factory (which makes the iconic Mysore sandal soap), the Bangalore Agricultural University, the Bank of Mysore and the Bangalore Press were set up.
- He penned his autobiography, **Memoirs of my Working Life, in 1951**.
- **“Industrialise or Perish”** was Visvesvaraya’s mantra.

CR