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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The book "Winning Like Sourav: Think & Succeed Like Ganguly" authored by Abhirup Bhattacharya has been released. It states about the Sourav Ganguly's trust on talented youngsters that gained India its greatest cricketers.
 - Abhirup Bhattacharya has previously authored "Winning Like Virat: Think and Success Like Kholi.
- ❖ The central government think tank NITI Aayog has unveiled the blueprint of 'National Health Stack' (NHS), a shared digital healthcare infrastructure. The blueprint is in line with the implementation of the Centre's flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat and other public healthcare programmes in the country.
- ❖ The first-ever 'India Tourism Mart (ITM)' will be hosted by the Ministry of Tourism in New Delhi from 16th to 18th September 2018. Regarding to this, the Tourism Ministry has partnered with the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH) to organize the event.
- ❖ Indian Railways Introduces First Double Stack Dwarf Container Service from Rajkot Division, Western Railway. With the use of these double-stack dwarf containers, the cost of the unit will be significantly reduced.

TAMILNADU

Tamil Nadu Lokayukta Bill, 2018

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly on 9 July, 2018 passed the Tamil Nadu Lokayukta Bill, 2018 that was introduced by The minister for personnel and administrative reforms D. Jayakumar.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Governments move came ahead of the Supreme Court's deadline to establish a Lokayukta by July 10.
- The Lokayukta complaint can be filed on corruption which has taken place within four years' period.
- According to the bill, the anti-graft panel shall be chaired by a sitting or retired high court judge, or a person with 25 years of experience in anti-corruption policy, public administration, vigilance, finance and law.





The anti-corruption ombudsman shall have four members, including two judicial members.

Appointment of Members

- ❖ The chairperson and the members will be appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of a Selection Committee.
- ❖ The Select Committee comprises the Chief Minister as its head, Assembly Speaker and Leader of Opposition, or the leader of the single largest opposition party in the Assembly.

Lokayukta's powers

- ❖ The Lokayukta's powers include summoning and examining any person and receiving evidence of affidavits.
- ❖ The investigation wing of the body shall have all the powers of a civil court under the CrPC, 1908,
- ❖ The Lokayukta Act was passed by the central government in 2013 and was notified by the Centre in 2014.
- Section 63 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, states that every state shall establish a body to be known as the Lokayukta.

NATIONAL

15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

- ❖ The 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is being organized by Ministry of External Affairs in association with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in January 2019.
- ❖ Theme of 2019 event is "Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India".
- ❖ Pravasi Bhartiya Divas is annually celebrated on January 9 to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community towards their homeland.

Institutions of Eminence status

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has granted Institution of Eminence (IoE) status to six educational institutions.
- ❖ It includes 3 Institutions from Public Sector and 3 from Private Sector.





Public Sector	Private Sector
Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru (Karnataka)	Birla Institute of Technology & Sciences, Pilani (Rajashtan)
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay (Maharashtra)	Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal (Karnataka)
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi	Jio Institute of Reliance Foundation in Pune (Maharashtra) under Green Field Project.

- ❖ They were selected by Empowered Expert Committee headed by former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) N Gopalaswami.
- ❖ The scheme of IoE was rolled out by University Grants Commission (UGC).



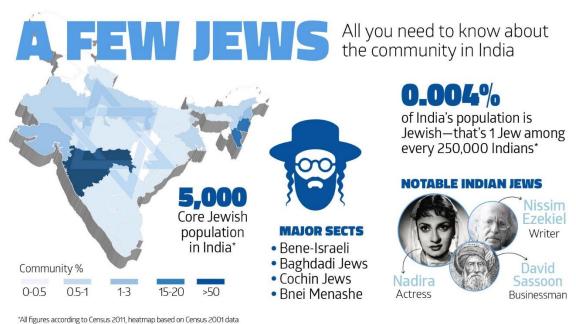




STATES

Religious minority status to Jews

- ❖ Gujarat became third state in India to grant religious minority status to Jews after West Bengal and Maharashtra.
- ❖ In this regard, State's Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has issued Government Resolution (GR) to this effect.
- ❖ With this, there are now seven religious minorities in the state. The other six are Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains.
- ❖ West Bengal had granted the Minority Status to Jews over a decade ago. while, Maharashtra had accorded minority status for Jews in 2017
- ❖ The Jewish community of India is the fourth largest Asian Jewish community after Israel, Asian Russia, and Iran.



All rigures according to Census 2011, hearmap based on Census 2001 data

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Anushka Sharma's talking statue at Madame Tussauds

❖ Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma has become the first Indian personality to get a 'talking statue' at Madame Tussauds Singapore.





❖ Anushka's wax statue will also be able to talk, making it the first-of-its-kind statue at the museum.



❖ Anushka joins the list of global icons like Oprah Winfrey, Cristiano Ronaldo and Lewis Hamilton who also have their interactive sets at the Singapore attraction.

President of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU)

- Dr.Sandeep Sancheti, Vice Chancellor of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) has assumed charge as the 97th President of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi.
- ❖ Association of Indian Universities was founded in 1925 and initially known as the Inter-University Board of India.
- ❖ The AIU has currently more than 720 members represented by Vice Chancellors and it is seen as the representative of all Universities of India.
- ❖ AIU facilitates coordination and mutual consultation among Universities as well as acting as a liaison with Central and State governments.





SPORTS

Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)

- ❖ The Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) of Union Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs has included entire Men's Hockey team of India under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).
- ❖ This is first instance that entire team has been made beneficiary of the scheme as earlier only individual athletes from different sports were included as beneficiaries of the scheme.
- ❖ The 18 team members will be provided with monthly allowance of Rs. 50,000 each under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).
- ❖ TOPS was launched by Ministry of Sports within the ambit of National Sports Development Fund (NSDF).
- ❖ Under it, Sports Authority of India (SAI) and federations, which are members of Mission Olympic Cell (MOC), will be nodal agencies for disbursal for fund.
- ❖ Abinav Bindra Committee was constituted to identify and support potential medal prospects for 2020 and 2024 Olympic Games under the scheme.

MISCELLANEOUS

Saathi mobile help centre

- ❖ The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has launched Saathi, a mobile help centre to reach out to people undertaking annual pilgrimage to holy cave shrine of Amarnath.
- ❖ CRPF personnel of Saathi mobile help centre will be visiting various camps in Jammu and apprise pilgrims about security measures to be kept in mind.
