

April - 27

NATIONAL

First International SME Convention 2018

- ❖ The first International SME (Small, Medium Enterprises) convention was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The four-day convention has been organised by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.
- ❖ It aims to provide general platform for free and fair business discussions and Entrepreneur to Entrepreneur (E2E) exchange of ideas, for addressing the impediments in business progress.
- ❖ The MSMEs sector constitute single largest employer after Agriculture sector in India.



Revoke of AFSPA

- ❖ The Union Home Ministry has removed Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) from Meghalaya and reduced it to eight police stations from 16 police stations in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The Act has however been extended by another six months in three eastern districts of Arunachal Pradesh – Tirap, Longding and Changlang – which border Myanmar and specific areas under eight police stations of seven other districts bordering Assam.
- ❖ The three districts have been under the AFSPA since January 2016. The Act was withdrawn from Tripura in 2015.
- ❖ The Act was only in place in Meghalaya for a 20-km area along the Assam border) and not in operation in Mizoram.



- ❖ It is effective in the whole of Nagaland, Assam, Manipur (excluding seven assembly constituencies of Imphal).
- ❖ The state governments of Assam and Manipur now have the powers to keep or revoke the Act.

AFSPA

- ❖ AFSPA, enacted in 1958, gives powers to the army and state and central police forces to shoot to kill, search houses and destroy any property that is “likely” to be used by insurgents in areas declared as “disturbed” by the home ministry.

What are ‘disturbed’ areas

- ❖ The state or central government considers those areas as ‘disturbed’ “by reason of differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.

How is a region declared ‘disturbed’?

- ❖ Section (3) of the AFSPA empowers the governor of the state or Union territory to issue an official notification in The Gazette of India, following which the Centre has the authority to send in armed forces for civilian aid. Once declared ‘disturbed’, the region has to maintain status quo for a minimum of three months, according to The Disturbed Areas (Special Courts) Act, 1976.”

ECONOMY

A Record High Forex Reserves

- ❖ According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India’s forex (foreign exchange) reserves have touched record high of \$424.864 billion in April 2018.
- ❖ The surge was due to massive spike in foreign currency assets (FCAs), a key component of the reserves.
- ❖ The forex are reserve assets held by a central bank in foreign currencies.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IRNSS-1I

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched IRNSS-1I navigation satellite from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- The satellite was launched on board of PSLV-C41.

- IRNSS-1I was made by Bengaluru-based Alpha Design Technologies in collaboration with ISRO.
- The IRNSS-1I is overall eighth satellite to join ISRO's NAVIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) navigation satellite constellation.
- The NAVIC Navigation satellites system is constellation of seven satellites - namely IRNSS-1I, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, 1F and 1G - of which three are geostationary and four are non-geostationary.
- It replaced IRNSS-1A, the first of seven navigation satellites of IRNSS series that was rendered ineffective after its three rubidium atomic clocks failed.
- IRNSS-1I will be stationed in Geosynchronous Orbit at 36,000 km height.

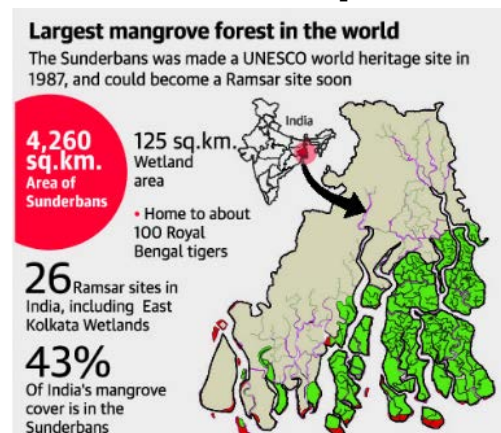
e-court fee payment facility

- ❖ Madras High Court has introduced the e-court fee payment facility for fee payments of the adjudicating cases.
- ❖ With this Madras High Court became first court in south India and overall eighth in the country to introduce e-court fee payment facility.
- ❖ Tamilnadu Chief Minister and Chief Justice Indira Banerjee launched this facility at the principal seat of the High Court in Chennai as well as at its Madurai Bench.

ENVIRONMENT

Ramsar site status - Sunderbans

- ❖ West Bengal government has given its approval to State Forest Department to apply for Ramsar Site recognition under Ramsar Convention to Sunderban Reserve Forest.
- ❖ Once it is conferred Ramsar site status, Sundarbans Reserve Forest will be largest protected wetland in the country.
- ❖ There are currently 26 sites in India recognised as Ramsar wetland sites of international importance. West Bengal already has one Ramsar wetland called



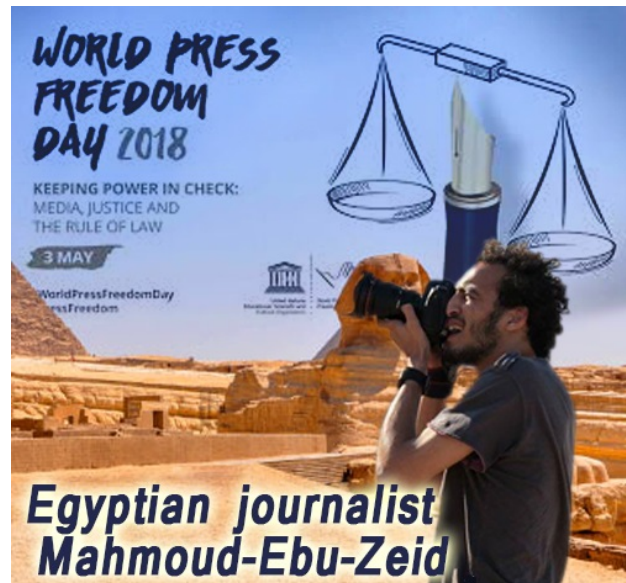
East Kolkata Wetlands.

- ❖ Sundarbans is vast contiguous mangrove forest ecosystem in the coastal region of Bay of Bengal spread across India and Bangladesh.
- ❖ It is located in delta region of Padma, Meghna and Brahmaputra river basins.
- ❖ It is the largest tidal halophytic mangrove forest in the world. It was recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

2018 UNESCO Press Freedom Prize

- ❖ Egyptian photojournalist Mahmoud Abu Zeid, popularly known as Shawkan, will be awarded United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) for year 2018.
- ❖ The award was established in 1997 by United Nations' cultural body UNESCO's in honour of Colombian journalist Guillermo Cano Isaza.
- ❖ It honours person, organization or institution for their outstanding contribution to the defence and promotion of freedom of press anywhere in the world, especially achieved in face of danger.
- ❖ Guillermo Cano Isaza was a Colombian journalist was assassinated on 17 December 1986 in front of the offices of his newspaper, El Espectador in Bogota because of his publishment on Colombian internal issues.



SPORTS

National Junior Athletics Championship

- ❖ The 16th Federation Cup National Junior athletics championship has begun in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ Coimbatore is hosting it for the first time and is organised by the Tamil Nadu Athletic Association.
- ❖ The three-day meet, which features athletes aged between 16 and 20, will serve as selection trial for the
 - Third South Asian junior championship in Colombo.
 - 18th Asian junior championship in Gifu, Japan.
 - The IAAF World under-20 championships in Tampere, Finland.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Panchayati Raj Day - 24 April

- ❖ The National Panchayati Raj Diwas (Day) is celebrated every year in India on 24th April.
- ❖ This day is celebrated to marks the passing of Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from 24 April 1993.
- ❖ The first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in 2010.
- ❖ The enactment of 73rd Amendment Act had led a Power devolution moment in the history of India. It helped in decentralization of political power to the grassroots level.

World Malaria Day - 25 April

- ❖ The World Malaria Day (WMD) is being observed every year on 25 April across the world to recognise the global efforts to control preventable vector borne disease malaria.
- ❖ The theme of 2018 World Malaria Day is “Ready to beat malaria”.
- ❖ The World Malaria Day (WMD) was established by the 60th session of World Health Assembly, a decision-making body of World Health Organization (WHO) in May 2007.

- - - - -