

June- 23

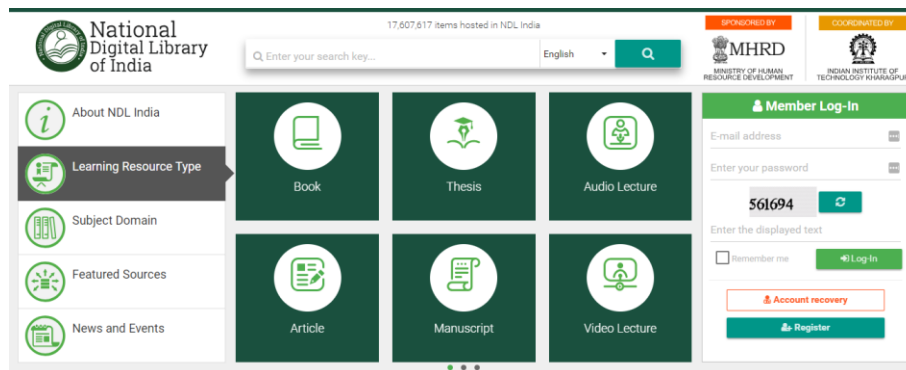
## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has selected Shillong, the capital city of Meghalaya as 100th smart city after evaluating the proposal submitted by it.
- ❖ Arvind Subramanian announced that he was stepping down as the Union government's chief economic adviser (CEA). Mr. Subramanian started his term as CEA on October 16 2014, for a term of three years.
  - On the completion of three years, he was asked to continue for a year more, which would have taken his term to October 2018.

## NATIONAL

### National Digital Library

- ❖ The Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar launched the National Digital Library of India (NDLI) on the occasion of the National Reading Day, on June 19, 2018.
- ❖ This National Digital Library of India (NDLI) is a project of the Ministry of Human Resource Development under the aegis of National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT).



- ❖ It has been developed by IIT Kharagpur. The NDL is a single window platform and it is a 24x7 knowledge resource that is accessible to anyone.
- ❖ The library can be accessed at [ndp.iitkgp.ac.in](http://ndp.iitkgp.ac.in). The user registration is open to users from around the world.

## **Lateral entry**

- ❖ The Union government has invited “outstanding individuals” to join the government at the level of Joint Secretary at the Centre.
- ❖ The move comes in a bid to bring in expertise from the private sector and infuse talent into the country’s bureaucracy.
- ❖ Any private sector professional with 15 years of work experience in any of the 10 fields like civil aviation, commerce, economic affairs can apply for the posts.
- ❖ The age of the candidate should not be less than 40 years.
- ❖ The selected individuals will be given three-year contracts — extendable to five years based on performance — in key ministries and given the pay scale of a joint secretary.

## **World’s first International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics**

- ❖ The world's first of its kind and state-of-the-art International Centre for ‘Humanitarian Forensics’ (ICHF) was launched at the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ The center is a joint venture of the regional delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in India, Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives and also Gujarat Forensic Science University.
- ❖ The center will aid humanitarian efforts during emergencies and natural disasters such as the work carried out by Red Cross during the Gujarat Earthquake.
- ❖ Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (GFSU) is the world’s first and only University dedicated to Forensic and Allied Sciences.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **UNHRC – Withdrawal of USA**

- ❖ The United States has withdrawn from the United Nations' top human rights body accusing it of "chronic bias" against Israel.
- ❖ Washington's withdrawal is the latest US rejection of multilateral engagement after it pulled out of the Paris climate agreement and the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

- ❖ The Human Rights Council was created in 2006 after its precursor, the Human Rights Commission, was disbanded by then-Secretary General Kofi Annan because of a "credibility deficit."
- ❖ The body consists of 47 member states, with a specific number of seats given to each region of the world.
- ❖ Members are elected by the U.N. General Assembly for three-year terms and cannot serve more than two terms in a row.
- ❖ It was only in 2009 that the U.S. joined the organization under President Barack Obama.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### Polar Music Prize

- ❖ Legendary rock band Metallica has been honored with the prestigious Polar Music Prize in Sweden.
- ❖ The American heavy metal band was founded by drummer Lars Ulrich.



- ❖ The international prize was founded in 1989 by Stig 'Stikkan' Anderson - the manager of pop legends ABBA - and recognizes "significant achievements in music".
- ❖ It is awarded to one contemporary and one classical musician each year.
- ❖ Previous winners of the prize include Paul McCartney, Ray Charles, Joni Mitchell, Bruce Springsteen and Stevie Wonder.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Refugee Day – 20 June

- ❖ The World Refugee Day is observed every year June 20 to raise awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world.
- ❖ Observance of this day seeks to draw attention to the plight of refugees and also to celebrate their courage and resilience and renew commitment to solving refugee problems.



- ❖ The theme for World Refugee Day 2018 is “Now More Than Ever, We Need to Stand with Refugees.”
  - ❖ The World Refugee Day was proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by passing Resolution on 4 December 2000.
  - ❖ The resolution was passed to mark the 50th anniversary of UN Refugee Convention, 1951. Since then it is observed annually with different themes.
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