

**May-04**

## **TAMILNADU**

### **Road Safety Week**

- ❖ The 29th Road Safety Week was observed with a Road Safety awareness rally across Tamilnadu from April 23 to 30.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'Sadak Suraksha — Jeevan Raksha'.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Panel for Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary**

- ❖ The first meeting of the national committee for commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in 2019, held in Delhi.
- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind presided the first meeting.
- ❖ The committee is headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and has 114 members on board including Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, former Prime Ministers and Chief Justice of India, Lok Sabha Speaker, members of union cabinet, political party leaders, chief ministers, Gandhians, spiritual gurus and social workers among others.
- ❖ The 150th birth anniversary of the father of the nation will be commemorated from 2nd October 2019 to 2nd October 2020.

### **23rd meeting of Western Zonal Council**

- ❖ The 23rd meeting of Western Zonal Council was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat under the chairmanship of Union home minister Rajnath Singh.
- ❖ Zonal Councils are a statutory body set up under the States Reorganization Act, 1956)
- ❖ Zonal Councils were established to foster Inter-State co-operation and co-ordination among the States.
- ❖ Currently, there are total five zonal councils viz. Northern, Western, Eastern, Central and Southern.
- ❖ They are not constitutional bodies and they are only deliberative and advisory bodies with Union Home Minister as its chairman.

- ❖ The northeastern states are not included in these five zonal Councils. Their special problems are looked after by North Eastern Council, set up under the North Eastern Council Act, 1972.

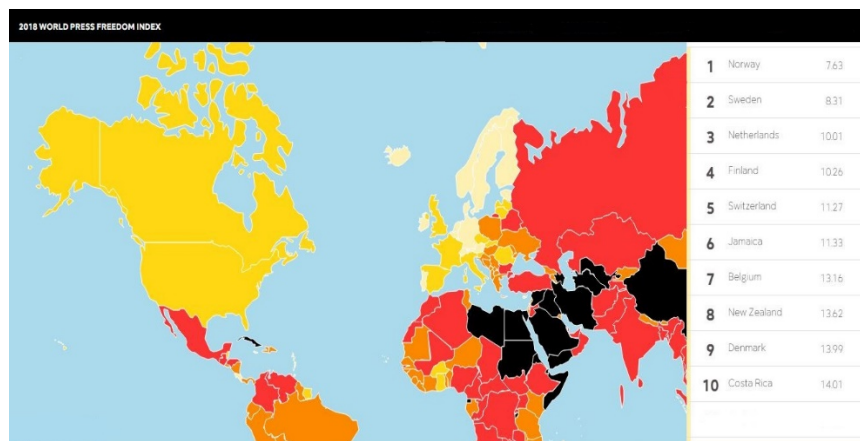
### **Vijay Prahar' Exercise**

- ❖ The South Western Command of the Indian Army engaged in the "Vijay Prahar" exercise to fine-tune the Army's jointmanship with the Indian Air Force (IAF) in Mahajan area near Suratgarh in Rajasthan.
- ❖ The exercise is being held in the wake of the IAF testing its might in the "Gagan Shakti" exercise in the western sector of Rajasthan
- ❖ The exercise that began a couple of weeks ago will conclude on May 9
- ❖ The South Western Command of the Indian Army was established in April 2005 and became fully operational on 15 August 2005. It is headquartered at Jaipur of Rajasthan.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **World Press Freedom Index 2018**

- ❖ In recently released World Press Freedom Index (WPF) 2018 by Reporters Without Borders, India was placed at 138th rank out of 180 nations surveyed worldwide in terms of press freedom in 2017.



- ❖ India's rank dropped down to 138th this year from 136th in 2017, two points below the previous year.

- ❖ This year, the index has been topped by Norway again for the second year, followed by Sweden at second and the Netherlands at third, Finland (4th), Switzerland (5th).
- ❖ North Korea remains the most repressive country followed by Eritrea, Turkmenistan, Syria and then China.
- ❖ China's ranking remained unchanged at 175th position for the second year.
- ❖ Press Freedom Index Published annually by Reporters Without Borders since 2002, the World Press Freedom Index measures the level of media freedom in 180 countries.

## STATES

### 5th Scheduled Areas in Rajasthan

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given approval inclusion of certain areas in Rajasthan under Fifth Schedule to Constitution so that tribals living there can avail the benefit of protective measures under its provisions.
- ❖ The areas to be included comprises three complete districts Banswara, Dungarpur, Pratapgarh, nine tehsils, one block and 46 complete gram panchayats covering 227 villages in Udaipur, Rajsamand, Chittorgarh, Pali and Sirohi districts of Rajasthan.
- ❖ The promulgation of new Constitution Order will ensure that the scheduled tribes (ST) of Rajasthan will get benefits of protective measures available under the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

### Longest serving Chief Minister of India

- ❖ Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling became the longest-serving chief minister of any state as he completed 25 uninterrupted years in office. He broke the record of former West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, who held office for 23 years.
- ❖ In 1993, Mr Chamling formed the Sikkim Democratic Front Party.
- ❖ He is the founding president of the ruling Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) became chief minister in December 1994.
- ❖ With the slogan "New Sikkim, Happy Sikkim", he launched policies and programmes to transform the state.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India - New Chairman**

- ❖ Subhash Chandra Khuntia, a 1981-batch Indian Administrative Services officer who was a former Karnataka Chief Secretary, has been appointed as Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Khuntia's appointment as a Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India for a period of three years.
- ❖ The post was vacant for more than two months after TS Vijayan's tenure came to an end on February 21, 2018.
- ❖ IRDAI is an apex statutory body that regulates and develops insurance industry in India. It was constituted as per provisions of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.
- ❖ IRDAI's headquarter is located at Hyderabad.

## **SPORTS**

### **Commonwealth Medallist - Tamilnadu**

- ❖ The Tamilnadu Government congratulated the sportspersons, who have won medals at the 21st Commonwealth Games being held at Gold Coast, Australia from April 4 to 15, and announced high cash incentives of 50 lakhs for each of them.

#### **Tamilnadu Medal Winners**

- ❖ Sathiyam won silver and bronze medals in the table tennis mixed doubles event and men's doubles event. With these, he has won three medals in the Commonwealth Games.
- ❖ Sharath Kamal won a silver medal in the table tennis men's doubles and a bronze medal in the table tennis men's singles. This is the third medal he won in the Commonwealth Games.
- ❖ Dipika Karthik won two silver medals in the squash women's doubles event and squash mixed doubles event.

- ❖ Saurav Ghosal won a silver medal in the squash mixed doubles event.
- ❖ Joshna Chinappa won a silver medal in the squash women's doubles event.
- ❖ Amal Raj had won the gold medal in table tennis team event.
- ❖ Sathish Sivalingam lifted the gold in the men's 77kg weightlifting class.
- ❖ In this 21st Commonwealth Games, India secured third place in the medal tally by winning 66 medals totally including 26 gold, 20 silvers and 20 bronzes.

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