

**May - 10**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Aajeevika and Kaushal Vikas Melas were organised in different parts of the country today as part of Gram Swaraj Abhiyan. Under this, success stories in livelihood and skill development were celebrated.
- ❖ In Assam, a 97.3-meter tall national flag, the tallest in the country, will be installed in Guwahati under Smart City Mission. Ankur Das is the Team Leader of the mission. This work is being commissioned by the Industries and Commerce department in association with Smart City Mission.
- ❖ The seventeenth edition of the IAAF World Championships is scheduled to be held between 28 September and 6 October 2019 in Doha, Qatar at the renovated multi-purpose Khalifa International Stadium.
- ❖ The sports initiative 'Star Khel Mahakumbh' was launched by BJP MP Anurag Thakur and cricketing great Sachin Tendulkar at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh. The athletes will compete in volleyball, basketball, cricket, football, kabaddi and athletics.
- ❖ Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, attended India- South Africa business summit in Johannesburg, South Africa.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved plan to set up 20 All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) across the country and upgrade 73 medical colleges.
- ❖ The decisions are part of the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), which has been extended by two years till 2020.
- ❖ The construction of new AIIMS will be fully funded by Central government.

### **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana**

- ❖ PMSSY was announced in 2003 and it will be funded from different centrally sponsored schemes relating to creating infrastructure on health.

- ❖ Its objectives are correcting regional imbalances in availability of affordable and reliable tertiary healthcare services and augment facilities for quality medical education in the country.

### **Exhibition on Indian civilisation**

- ❖ A first-of-its-kind exhibition on Indian civilisation was inaugurated at the National Museum in New Delhi.
- ❖ The exhibition marks an unprecedented collaboration between the British Museum-London, National Museum-New Delhi and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS)-Mumbai and is actively supported by the Culture Ministry.
- ❖ It was planned as part of commemoration of 70 years of India's Independence and a year of major cultural exchange between India and the UK.

### **National workshop on Data Requirements**

- ❖ The 2-day national workshop on Data Requirements for Disaster Risk Reduction Database successfully concluded in New Delhi.
- ❖ The workshop was organised by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with the
  - United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
  - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
  - United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
- ❖ The main aim of the two-day workshop was to develop a uniform and credible national-level disaster database.
- ❖ The database would help track the progress made towards achieving the targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR).

## INTERNATIONAL

### President of Paraguay

- ❖ Conservative former senator Mario Abdo Benítez of the governing Colorado Party won the presidential election in Paraguay who pledged to tackle corruption effectively.



- ❖ The current constitution, established in 1992 after the dictatorship, limits the head of state to a single five-year term.
- ❖ Last year, Paraguay ranked 135 out of 180 in corruption watchdog Transparency International's corruption perceptions index.

### Floating nuclear plant - Russia

- ❖ Russia has launched the world's only floating nuclear power unit into the Baltic Sea.
- ❖ The FNPP was towed out of the St. Petersburg shipyard where it was constructed for travel to its final destination to the port of Pevek in Russia's extreme northeastern region of Chukotka.
- ❖ The floating nuclear power unit (FPU) “Akademik Lomonosov” was named after the famed Russian scientist Mikhail Vasilyevich Lomonosov.
- ❖ Akademik Lomonosov will replace the Bilibino nuclear power plant, constructed in 1974, and the 70-year-old Chaunskaya Thermal Power Plant.
- ❖ The FPU belongs to Russia’s Floating Nuclear Thermal Power Plant (FNPP) fleet, which is designed to withstand the harshest conditions at sea.



- ❖ Environmental activists have slammed the move, calling it 'Nuclear Titanic' and 'Chernobyl on ice'. The US once used a floating nuclear plant in Panama from 1968-1975.



## **ECONOMY**

### **27th GST Council meet**

- ❖ The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council's 27th meeting, chaired by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley via video conferencing, was held in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).
- ❖ The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has
  - Approved a proposal to convert GST Network, the IT backbone of GST, into a government-owned entity, unveiled a new, simplified return filing process.
  - Deferred a decision on imposing cess on sugar following opposition from states.
- ❖ The GST Network currently is
  - 24.5 % owned by the Central government,

- 24.5 %held by state governments collectively,
- The remaining 51 %is with HDFC Ltd, HDFC Bank Ltd, ICICI Bank Ltd, NSE Strategic Investment Co and LIC Housing Finance Ltd.

### **Agenda and outcome**

- **Converting GSTN into government body: Council agreed** 
- **Cess on sugar** : Referred to five-member council  
**Incentivizing digital payments:** Referred to five-member council
- **Simplifying returns** : After six months, only one monthly return has to be file

### **Fastest growing economies for coming decade**

- ❖ According to the latest report by Harvard University, India tops the list of the fastest growing economies in the world for the coming decade and is projected to grow at 7.9 per cent annually, ahead of even China and the United States.
- ❖ While China is projected to grow at 4.9 per cent annually to 2026, the United States is expected to grow at 3 per cent and France at 3.5 per cent.
- ❖ The researchers also found that India ranks the best on the criteria termed as the Complexity Opportunity Index (COI), which measures how easy it is to redeploy existing knowledge to enter new complex products.
- ❖ Uganda comes second on the list of the fastest-growing economies to 2026, predicted to grow at 7.5 per cent annually.
- ❖ In sub-Saharan Africa, growth is expected to shift eastward from commodity-driven West Africa to East Africa, with Uganda, Tanzania (4th), and Kenya



(10th) in the top 10 predicted fastest growing countries globally for the coming decade.

- ❖ On the other hand, the study revealed that many low-income countries, including Bangladesh, Venezuela and Angola have failed to diversify their capabilities and face low growth prospects in the coming decade.

## STATES

### Asthamangal project

- ❖ BSNL has started Asthamangal project to connect capital places of the North East with high-speed bandwidth.
- ❖ 1900 mobile towers are to be set up in hilly Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong districts.
- ❖ In Assam, public sector telecom operator BSNL has given emphasis on better connectivity in remote and border areas.
- ❖ All the Gram Panchayats will be connected through optical fibre network and steps are being taken in this direction.

## SPORTS

### IAAF Diamond League

- ❖ Indian javelin thrower and the Commonwealth games gold medalist Neeraj Chopra has shattered his own national record at the IAAF Diamond League, held in Doha.
- ❖ He cleared a distance of 87.43 m to finish fourth in the season opening League series.
- ❖ Chopra had recently won the gold medal in XXI Commonwealth Games at the Gold Coast with a throw of 86.47 m.
- ❖ Thomas Rohler took the top spot with a 91.78 m throw with compatriots Johannes Vetter (91.56 m) and Hofmann Andreas (90.08 m) finished 2nd and 3rd respectively.
- ❖ The next leg of the elite event will take place in Shanghai, China on May 12.

- ❖ Neeraj first entered the records book in 2016 with a world record throw of 86.48 m at the World U20 Championships in Poland.



### **Azerbaijan Grand Prix**

- ❖ Defending world champion Lewis Hamilton claimed his first win of 2018 and took over as leader of the title race when he triumphed in Azerbaijan Grand Prix.





- ❖ The 2018 Azerbaijan Grand Prix was a Formula One motor race held at the Baku City Circuit in Baku, Azerbaijan.

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