

May -11

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Indian-American Deepa Ambedkar has been appointed as an interim judge to the civil court of New York City, becoming the second Indian-American woman judge in the city after Chennai-born Raja Rajeswari.
 - In 2015, Rajeswari was sworn in as a criminal court judge, becoming the first India-born woman to be appointed a judge in the city.
- ❖ Justice Ajay Kumar Mittal has been appointed as the acting chief justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court after incumbent chief justice Shivax Jal Vazifdar demitted office at midnight upon his retirement.
- ❖ The Pakyong airport in Sikkim is set to become the 100th operational airport in the country when it is commissioned in June. Sikkim was the only state without an airport in the country.
- ❖ According to the Wimbledon officials, the 2018 men's and women's singles champions will receive £2.25 million, an increase of £50,000 on last year. Lower-ranked players at Wimbledon will enjoy a greater uplift, with an increase of 10% across qualifying and the first to fourth rounds of the singles, boosting the overhaul prize money total to £34 million this year.
- ❖ United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced the appointment of Christine Schraner Burgener of Switzerland as his new Special Envoy on Myanmar. Until her appointment, Ms. Burgener was the Ambassador of Switzerland to Germany since 2015.
- ❖ Former Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Speaker Kavinder Gupta assumed charge as the Deputy Chief Minister of the state. Kavinder Gupta will replace BJP's Nirmal Singh, who will now become the assembly speaker.
- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind gave Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi additional charge of Manipur in absence of its Governor Najma Heptullah.
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Former chief economic adviser Ashok Lahiri as a full-time member of the 15th Finance Commission. He is at present the part-time member of the commission, headed by AN.K.Singh.
- ❖ The Afghan Government has officially launched the distribution process of e-Tazkira or electronic identity cards. The e-Tazkira would help Afghan Government to further promote good governance, economic planning, and provide best public services to all citizens.

- ❖ Ace badminton shuttler Kidambi Srikanth formally took charge as Deputy Collector in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur.

NATIONAL

Regional Conference on 'Futuristic, Resilient and Digital Infrastructure'

- ❖ The 4th Regional Conference on 'Futuristic, Resilient and Digital Infrastructure' was held in Bengaluru.



- ❖ The 2-day Conference was organized by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).
- ❖ The conference is a lead-up event to the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) which is going to be hosted by the Government of India on 25th and 26th June 2018 in Mumbai.

2018 Secure India Conclave

- ❖ The 2018 Secure India Conclave has started in New Delhi, which is being organized by Global Counter-Terrorism keeping in view of Prime Minister vision of New India: Secure India 2018.
- ❖ Several sessions on Left Wing Extremism, the internal security situation on Jammu and Kashmir, cybersecurity and other areas will be chaired by eminent personnel during the 2-day summit.

FDI Confidence Index 2018

- ❖ India was ranked 11th position in the FDI Confidence Index 2018 released by global consultancy firm A T Kearney.
- ❖ It has slipped by three notches in 2018 as it was ranked 8th in 2017 and 9th in 2016. This is the first time India fell out of the top 10 since 2015.
- ❖ Top 5 countries in FDI Confidence Index 2018 are United States (1st), Canada (2nd), Germany (3rd), United Kingdom (4th), China (5th).

Rank	Country
1	United States
2	Canada
3	Germany
4	United Kingdom
5	China
6	Japan
7	France
8	Australia
9	Switzerland
10	Italy
11	India
12	Singapore
13	Netherlands
14	Sweden
15	Spain

- ❖ The US has topped spot for the sixth year in a row mainly due to continued confidence result of its large market, strong and sustained economic growth and recent corporate tax cuts.
- ❖ Switzerland and Italy have entered in the top 10 position for the first time in more than a decade.
- ❖ The index is an annual analysis of how political, economic, and regulatory changes will likely affect FDI inflows into countries in coming years.

Ayushman Bharat Diwas

- ❖ As part of Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, Ayushman Bharat Diwas was celebrated across the country on April 29th.
- ❖ The Ayushman Bharat programme seeks to provide easily available and affordable medical facilities in the remote parts of the country.
- ❖ The Ayushman Bharat has twin missions – The first is to create a network of Health and Wellness Centres to deliver comprehensive primary health care close to the community.
- ❖ Secondly, it aims to provide insurance coverage to 40% of India's population for secondary and tertiary care, including hospitalization costs.

Naval Commanders' conference

- ❖ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addressed the inaugural session of the bi-annual Naval commanders' conference.
- ❖ In this four-day conference, the Indian Navy will review its new mission-based deployment philosophy aimed at ensuring peace and stability in the region.
- ❖ The new deployment philosophy is in sync with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

International children's theatre festival

- ❖ Children of various theatre groups from eight countries besides host India will take part in an International Children's Theatre Festival in Kolkata.
- ❖ The eight countries are France, Slovenia, Swaziland, Mexico, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh.
- ❖ The festival, organized by the 'Kolkata Eso Natak Shikhi', is based on the theme "Safe Drive Save Life, Save Kids' Life".

'Cochlear Implant Awareness Programme'

- ❖ The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment organized a 'Cochlear Implant Awareness Programme' at Huda Convention Centre in Faridabad, Haryana.

- ❖ The programme was organized by DEPwD in association with Indian Red Cross Society and Sarvodaya Hospital & Research Centre.
- ❖ The event named Swar Swagtam was of great importance to create awareness among the public about the Cochlear Implant Programme under the Assistance to Disabled persons (ADIP) scheme of the Department.
- ❖ The cochlear implant (CI) is a surgically implanted electronic device that provides a sense of sound to a person who is profoundly or severely deaf in both ears.
- ❖ Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Speech and Hearing Disabilities (AYNISHD), Mumbai is the Nodal Agency for Cochlear Implant Surgeries.

15th Asia Media Summit

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi and Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), is hosting the 15th Asia Media Summit (AMS-2018) in New Delhi.



#AsiaMediaSummit

- ❖ The theme of the annual summit is “Telling our Stories- Asia and More” which aims to encourage dialogue and cooperation in Media Sector in the region.
- ❖ The summit is a prestigious annual event in the Asia Pacific Region, which is organized by the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) in collaboration with its partners and international organizations.
- ❖ India is hosting the event for the first time.

Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)

- ❖ Established in 1977, it is a unique regional inter-governmental organization servicing countries of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) in the field of electronic media development.
- ❖ It is hosted by the Government of Malaysia and the secretariat is located in Kuala Lumpur.

Apex Conference for CEOs of Smart Cities

- ❖ The First Apex Conference for CEOs of Smart Cities was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ It was organized by Union Urban Affairs Ministry and inaugurated by Minister of State (I/C) for Housing & Urban Affairs.
- ❖ The two-day conference was organized for providing a platform for cross-learning and knowledge sharing among Smart City CEOs.
- ❖ Since its launch in June 2015, Smart Cities Mission (SCM) has been one of the most transformational urban missions.

INTERNATIONAL

World's 5th Largest Economy

- ❖ According to new federal data, US state California's economy has surpassed that of the UK to become the world's fifth largest.
- ❖ With a GDP of \$2.7 trillion, California is now only behind the US, China, Japan, and Germany.
- ❖ The UK and India are next on the list, followed by France, Brazil, and Italy respectively.
- ❖ California had the world's fifth largest economy in 2002 but fell as low as 10th in 2012 following the Great Recession.

SAARC Finance Ministers Informal Meeting

- ❖ The twelfth informal meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers was held in Manila, Philippines on the sidelines of the 51st Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB).

- ❖ The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister of Nepal, Yuba Raj Khatriwada.

ECONOMY

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the proposal for renaming and restructuring of Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK).
- ❖ It also has approved its continuation during the remaining period of the 14th Finance Commission.
- ❖ PMJVK aims to address development deficits in identified minority concentration areas.
- ❖ It will also be implemented in Backward Clusters of Minority Concentration Villages (CoMCV) which will be identified on the proposal of States/UTs as per criteria of the scheme.
- ❖ MsDP was launched in 2008-09 in 90 identified Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) having at least 25% minority population with the objective of developing assets for socio-economic and basic amenities.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Atlantic Council advisory board

- ❖ The Atlantic Council, a Washington DC-headquartered foreign policy think tank, has inducted Reliance Group head Anil Ambani into its advisory board.
- ❖ The Atlantic Council is an American think tank in the field of international affairs.
- ❖ Founded in 1961, it provides a forum for international political, business, and intellectual leaders.
- ❖ It is a member of the Atlantic Treaty Association.
- ❖ Among the ten regional and thematic centers, the Atlantic Council's South Asia Center manages sustainable and innovative programs that are focused on fostering development and cooperation.

Krishna Menon Award

- ❖ Mahendra Chaudhry, Fiji's Indian-origin former prime minister, has been chosen to receive the V K Krishna Menon Award in recognition of his contribution to the Indian diaspora.
- ❖ The award was announced by the director of V K Krishna Menon Institute Cyriac Maprayil as the institute celebrated the 122nd birth anniversary of him at the Nehru Centre in London
- ❖ Chaudhry is the leader of the Fiji Labour Party. The former trade union leader became Fiji's first Indo-Fijian PM on May 19, 1999, but exactly one year later he was ousted in a coup.
- ❖ The VK Krishna Menon Institute was established in 2006 to commemorate and facilitate the life, times and achievements of VK Menon.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Red Cross Day – 08 May

- ❖ World Red Cross Day is also known as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.



- ❖ It is observed every year on 8 May by paying tribute to the volunteers for their unprecedented contribution to the people in need.
- ❖ The theme of World Red Cross Day 2018 is “Memorable smiles from around the world”.
- ❖ This day celebrates the birthday of Dunant Henry who had generated a Red Cross Committee of the International (ICRI) in 1863 in Switzerland, Geneva.

58th Raising Day - Border Roads Organization (BRO)

- ❖ Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 58th Raising Day on 7 May 2018.
- ❖ BRO is leading government organization in the arena of infrastructural development in the border areas of the country.
- ❖ It functions under Defence Ministry. It was established on 7 May 1960 and is headquartered in New Delhi.
- ❖ BRO plays a pivotal role in construction, maintenance and upgradation of strategic infrastructure in remote and far-flung border areas of India.
- ❖ It also develops and maintains road networks in friendly neighboring countries.



International Firefighters' Day – 04 May

- ❖ International Firefighters' Day is observed each year on 4th May to thank all firefighters for their extraordinary commitment, exceptional courage and for their selfless service.

- ❖ It was instituted after proposal emailed out across the world on January 4, 1999, due to the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia.
- ❖ This day's ribbons are linked to colors symbolic of the main elements firefighters work with – red for fire and blue for water.



- ❖ These colors also are internationally recognized as representing emergency service.