

**May - 24**

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Anil Kumar Jha has been appointed as the chairman-cum-managing director of Coal India Limited. Mr. Jha, at present the CMD of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd., has been appointed to the post till his superannuation i.e. January 31, 2020.
  - CIL is a state-owned coal mining company headquartered in Kolkata.
- ❖ Sweden defeated Switzerland in a dramatic penalty shootout after a pulsating Ice Hockey World Championship final at the Royal Arena in Copenhagen to retain the title they won against Canada in similar fashion a year ago.
- ❖ United Kingdom's National Crime Agency (NCA) in its report has listed Pakistan among top three sources for money laundering in the country. The other two countries are Nigeria and Russia.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Strategic Petroleum Reserve**

- ❖ India received the first consignment of 2 million barrels of crude oil from United Arab Emirates (UAE) for its strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) at Mangaluru (on the west coast), Karnataka.
- ❖ Central Government under phase I of SPR programme had announced to build three underground crude oil storage facilities with total capacity of 5.33 mn tonnes at
  - Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh),
  - Mangalore (Karnataka) and
  - Padur (Kerala)to provide energy security of 10 days of consumption in response to external supply disruptions.
- ❖ They are maintained by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL), a special purpose vehicle (SPV), which is wholly owned subsidiary of Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- ❖ In the 2017-18 budget, Government as part of phase 2 of SPR programme had announced to set up two more such SPR at Chandikhole (Odisha) and Bikaner (Rajasthan).

## **Gandiv Vijay**

- ❖ Chetak corps of South Western Command of Indian Army conducted military exercise Gandiv Vijay in Mahajan field firing ranges of Rajasthan.



- ❖ The exercise was conducted two months to validate the operational plans of Chetak corps
- ❖ The Gandiv Vijay military exercise was based on the central role of carrying out offensive operations through joint air-land battle in a network-centric environment employing modern intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance concepts and equipment.

## **Black Panther**

- ❖ Chhattisgarh will get specialized anti-Naxal combat force called Black Panther on the lines of the Greyhounds unit of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Greyhounds are elite commando force that specializes in anti-insurgency operations against Naxals and Maoists and also expert in jungle warfare with operational jurisdiction in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ It was raised in 1989 by IPS officer KS Vyas to combat left-wing extremists in then undivided Andhra Pradesh.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Queqiao satellite

- ❖ China launched relay satellite named Queqiao (Magpie Bridge) to establish a communication link between earth and its planned Chang'e-4 lunar probe (rover) that will explore the dark side of the moon.

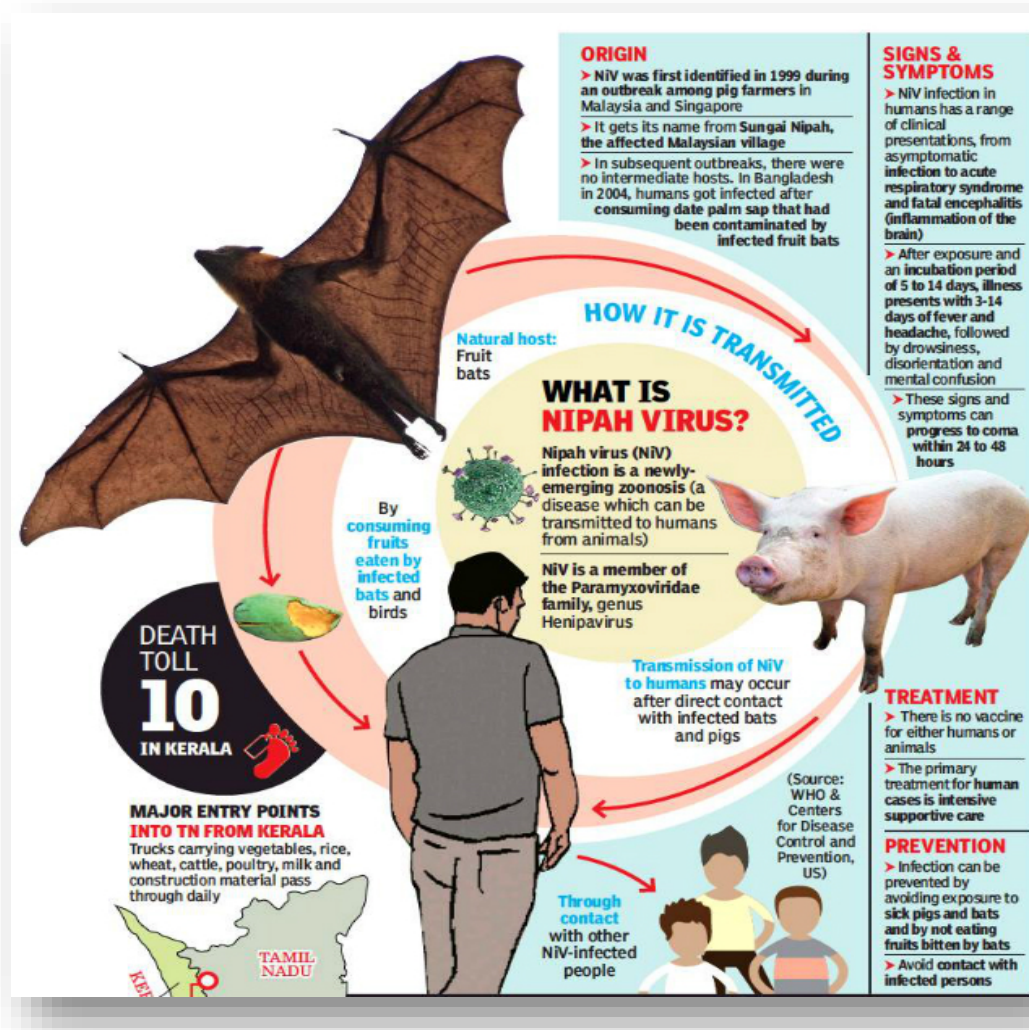


- ❖ It was launched as part of Chinese Lunar Exploration Program (CLEP) onboard of Long March-4C rocket from Xichang launch center.
- ❖ It will be situated in halo orbit i.e. Earth-moon Lagrange point L2, a gravitationally stable spot located 64,000 km beyond lunar far side. It will be world's first communication satellite operating in this location.
- ❖ Chinese Lunar Exploration Program (CLEP) also known as Chang'e program after Chinese moon goddess Chang'e, is ongoing series of robotic Moon missions by conceived by China National Space Administration (CNSA).

## ENVIRONMENT

### Nipah Virus (NiV) Infection

- ❖ Kerala was on high alert as rare and deadly Nipah Virus (NiV) infection which was detected for the first time in the state.



- ❖ Nipah virus (NiV) infection is a zoonotic disease that causes severe disease in both animals and humans. Fruit bats of the Pteropodidae Family, Pteropus genus are the natural host of the virus.
- ❖ It was first identified during an outbreak of disease that took place in Kampung Sungai Nipah, Malaysia in 1998.



- ❖ The virus cannot be transmitted through the air. But it is transmitted through direct contact with infected bats, pigs. Human to Human transmission from other NiV-infected people is also reported.
- ❖ NiV infection can cause acute respiratory syndrome, breathing trouble, inflammation of the brain, fever, headache, drowsiness, disorientation, and delirium. The patient can slip into coma within 48 hours.

## SPORTS

### Italian Open title

- ❖ Rafael Nadal defeated the defending champion Alexander Zverev in the final and clinched the eighth Italian Open title



- ❖ The win gave the Spaniard his 56th title on clay - eight of them in Rome - and he will reclaim the world number one ranking from Roger Federer when the revised ATP standings are released.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Bio-diversity Day – May 22

- ❖ The International Bio-diversity Day is observed every year on 22 May to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.
- ❖ The theme this year is ‘Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity’.



22 MAY 2018  
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Celebrating 25 Years of  
Action for Biodiversity



#Biodiversity25Years

- ❖ It marks 25th anniversary of the entry into force of Convention on Biological Diversity (at United Nations Environment Programme Headquarters, Nairobi on 22 May 1992) and to highlight progress made in the achievement of its objectives at national and global levels.
- ❖ On the occasion, National Mission for Clean Ganga and World Wildlife Federation (WWF)-India jointly organized a workshop on Ganga and its Biodiversity: Developing a Road Map for Habitat and Species Conservation in New Delhi.

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