

May - 31

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Pradeep Kumar Gupta, presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Mali, has been concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of India to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania with residence in Bamako (Mali).

## NATIONAL

### Exercise Prasthan

- ❖ Indian Navy conducted an exercise called Prasthan in the Western Offshore Development area in Mumbai.
- ❖ This exercise is conducted by the Headquarters of Western Naval Command.
- ❖ The exercise is held once in every 6 months and aims at integrating maritime stakeholders including, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, ONGC, Customs & Port Trust.
- ❖ The drills were focused on fire on an oil platform, Oil spill, search and rescue for crashed helicopters, etc.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Irish abortion referendum

- ❖ Two-thirds of voters approved Ireland's referendum that will allow an abortion during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.
- ❖ The final figures were 66.4% in favor of the change and 33.6% voting no.



- ❖ It is bringing Ireland's abortion laws into harmony with the European Union and most of the rest of the world.
- ❖ Its neighbor, Northern Ireland, still has a near-total ban on the procedure.
- ❖ The referendum removed the Eighth Amendment, added to Ireland's constitution in 1983 by the urging of the Catholic Church.
- ❖ The Amendment gave equal rights to a woman and an unborn child.
- ❖ A new abortion law will be in place by the end of the year, Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar has said.
- ❖ The proposed legislation will allow abortions during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, and up to the 24th week in exceptional circumstances.

### Denuclearisation in North Korea

- ❖ North Korea has dismantled its nuclear test site.

- ❖ Pyongyang announced its plan to "completely" dismantle the Punggye-ri facility in the country's northeast, inviting some foreign journalists to witness the destruction.
- ❖ The Punggye-ri test facility is buried inside a mountain in North Hamgyong province, near the border with China and is North Korea's only known nuclear test site.

### **Interim Prime Minister of Pakistan**

- ❖ Pakistan's former chief justice Nasir ul Mulk was named as the caretaker prime minister until general elections on July 25.
- ❖ Mulk, who also served as the interim chief of the Election Commission of Pakistan, will head a technocratic government until elections as the current government and Parliament will be dissolved.



- ❖ The announcement ends weeks of wrangling between Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Opposition Leader Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah's Pakistan People's Party.
- ❖ The outgoing government of Shahid Khaqan Abbasi is only the second to complete a five-year term in office, which underscores a democratic transition.
- ❖ In its 70-year-long history, the country experienced its first democratic transition of power in 2013, when Pakistan Peoples Party handed over the power to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), which had won the general elections.

## ECONOMY

### 1<sup>st</sup> CFO of RBI

- ❖ NSDL (National Securities Depository Limited) executive Sudha Balakrishnan has been appointed the first-ever chief financial officer (CFO) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).



- ❖ She will be the 12th executive director of the RBI and will have a three-year term.
- ❖ The CFO will be responsible for reporting of financial information of the central bank, establishing accounting policies and ensuring compliance with regulations.
- ❖ As the nodal officer managing the RBI balance sheet, Balakrishnan will also oversee the central bank's investments in India and abroad.
- ❖ Sudha Balakrishnan will be in charge of the government's bank account department, which processes government transactions like payments and revenue collections such as taxes.
- ❖ Besides internal accounts and budget, the CFO will also be in charge of corporate strategy functions like deciding the provident fund rate, which the central bank manages for its employees.
- ❖ As CFO, Sudha Balakrishnan will also be in charge of the dividend RBI pays to the government, which is crucial in the final budgetary calculations.

- ❖ Under the RBI Act, 1934, the central bank is required to pay the government its surplus after making provisions for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation in assets and, contribution to staff and superannuation fund among others.
- ❖ RBI follows a July to June financial year.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 2nd IT Corridor in China

- ❖ India launched its second IT corridor at Guiyang in South West China to cash in on the burgeoning Chinese software market.
- ❖ The Chinese Software Market remained elusive despite the presence of top Indian technology firms.
- ❖ The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has established the second Digital Collaborative Opportunities Plaza (SIDCOP) platform in China.
- ❖ It is an effort to provide market access to Indian IT firms in the huge Chinese market.
- ❖ Last December, the NASSCOM established its first SIDCOP platform in the Chinese port city of Dalian, which is India's first IT hub in China.
- ❖ While Dalian corridor's focus was on IOT (Internet of Things), the Guiyang corridor will focus on Big Data.
- ❖ India has been demanding China to provide market access to Indian IT and pharmaceutical firms for several years to reduce the bilateral trade deficit.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Green Cricket in India

- ❖ The BCCI and United Nations Environment on May 27, 2018, signed an agreement to promote green' cricket in India.
- ❖ Through the agreement, the BCCI will endeavor to reduce its environmental impact by greening its operations and engaging cricketers and fans in green initiatives.
- ❖ It will also focus on phasing out single-use plastic across stadiums in the country.

## STATES

### Allahabad – Change of Name

- ❖ Allahabad is set to be rechristened as ‘Prayag’, a long pending demand of sadhus and saints of the Sangam City.
- ❖ A decision in this regard could be taken before 2019 Kumbh Mela in the holy city where three main rivers flowing across the state namely Ganges, Yamuna, and Sarasvati meet.
- ❖ The place is also known for hosting Kumbh Mela once in every 12 years.

### Solar Toilets

- ❖ Manipur has become the first state in North-East and third in India to have solar toilets.
- ❖ The toilets are installed at Ibudhou Marjing hill at Heingang of Manipur.
- ❖ Earlier, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have had solar toilets installed.
- ❖ Earlier, Vishakapatnam railway station had become a fully energy efficient railway station with the installation of 1000 kW solar photovoltaic systems.
- ❖ Similarly, Tatyia Tope stadium in Bhopal has been converted as the first completely solar-powered non-cricket stadium.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### First Woman PM of Barbados

- ❖ The Caribbean island of Barbados has elected its first woman prime minister since gaining independence from Britain in 1966.



- ❖ Mia Mottley led her Barbados Labour Party (BLP) to a crushing victory over the Democratic Labour Party (DLP).

### Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav

- ❖ The 9th edition of 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav' under the Ministry of Culture, was inaugurated in Tehri, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Ministry of Culture is organizing the 9th edition of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- ❖ Artists from states like Karnataka, Haryana, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jammu Kashmir, Assam, and Punjab will showcase India's cultural heritage through performances of arts, Folk Music, Dance and cuisines.
- ❖ The paired state for Uttarakhand under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat matrix is Karnataka, and while troupes from all over the country will be performing, special emphasis is being given to Karnataka.

- ❖ The essential thrust of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) is to present rich diversity and uniqueness of Indian culture and to promote the cultural inter-linkages amongst the states to strengthen National integration.



### **Oldest Woman at Everest**

- ❖ Sangeeta Bahl, a 53-year-old former model, and entrepreneur from Jammu and Kashmir has become the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest.



- ❖ Sangeeta Sindhi Bahl was a former Miss India finalist in 1985 and is now residing at Gurgaon.
- ❖ Her husband Ankur Bahl climbed Mt Everest in May 2016.
- ❖ Sangeeta Bahl has already conquered six out of the seven highest peaks of the world.
- ❖ She broke the record of Premlata Agarwal, 48, who scaled Everest in May 2011.



- ❖ According to officials, six dozen Indian nationals have scaled Mt Everest this year, becoming the second nation of mountaineers to do so after climbers from the US.
- ❖ Shivangi Pathak, 16, from Haryana became India's youngest woman to climb the Everest from Nepali side.

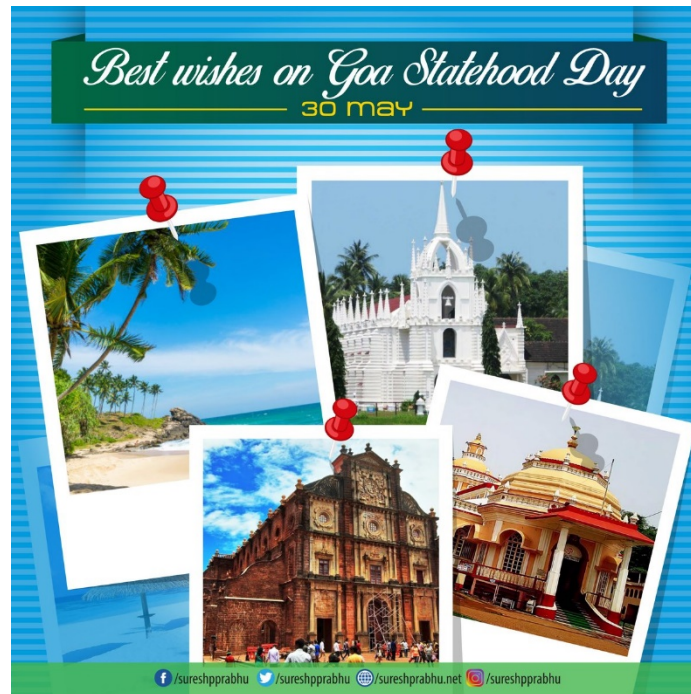
## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Hindi Journalism Day

- ❖ The Hindi Journalism Day (Hindi Patrakarita Diwas) is celebrated every year on May 30 in India to mark the beginning to journalism in the Hindi language.
- ❖ On this date, in 1826, the first Hindi-language newspaper of India "Udant Martand" (The Rising Sun) was published from Calcutta by Pt. Jugal Kishore Shukla.
- ❖ Hindi daily publishing took place in Braj and Khari languages.

### Goa Statehood Day

- ❖ The Goa Statehood Day is celebrated every year on May 30.



- ❖ The country's smallest state attained statehood on May 30, 1987, changing its earlier status as the Union Territory along with Daman and Diu.

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